

**Lisa Grossman**  
***Slow Winding***



**HAW CONTEMPORARY**  
**May 19 - June 24, 2017**  
**Opening Reception - Friday, May 19, 6 - 9 PM**

You cannot see the great sweeping bends of the Kansas River from the ground. For years it was only an intriguing blur as I drove over one of the bridges that span it. When I moved to Lawrence from Kansas City in 1996, I began exploring the river's edges—riparian trails and the few riverside painting sites that afforded a longer view.

In 2002, after catching an unforgettable glimpse of the Kansas River or Kaw, on a flight back to Kansas City, I began flying the 173-mile length of the Kaw with some pilot friends to photograph it. A little elevation revealed the Kaw's stunning beauty, its wide arcs stretching across the horizon. I flew at dusk and sometimes dawn to capture the contrasts of the dark floodplains with the river's reflected light.

For twenty-some years my primary work has been prairie-based, primarily *plein air*, (on location), anchored by the horizon and leaning sunward, with keen attentiveness to shifts in light, color, and weather. The Kaw is the longest prairie-based river in the world and so these prairie river paintings, studio works using my aerial footage, continue those investigations with an emphasis on flux and flow. I seek to convey the ceaseless sweep and thrust of carving river currents through sand, the turnings of day and season, and even the movement of the plane circling and crossing over, tracing the meanderings of the river.

This river challenges me to engage deeply with place in a visceral and personal way. As I've hiked and biked the river trails, explored its sandbars, kayaked its length, and investigated it from the air, the Kaw's windings continually lure me into a process of discovery. I learn much from science colleagues and have served on the board of Friends of the Kaw for years, but feel my best advocacy for the river is through my work. It's immensely satisfying to put this place on

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the map, visually, and give viewers a sense of connection to our watershed and the importance of a healthy river to our communities.

### BIO

Born in 1967 in western Pennsylvania, Grossman moved to Kansas City in the late 1980's, and over the last twenty years established herself as a prominent painter and printmaker of eastern Kansas's open prairie spaces and the Kansas River Valley. Over a span of twenty-six solo shows in the Midwest and on either coast, Grossman has evolved a luminous and minimalist *plein air* style, focusing on the horizon and subtle shifts in light and color, weather and season.

Based in Lawrence, Kansas since 1996, Grossman's work is included in numerous public, private, corporate, and museum collections including the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas; the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, Kansas; and the Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University. Grossman has completed numerous significant commissions including large canvases for the Chiefs Art Program at Arrowhead Stadium, the H & R Block Center, both in Kansas City, and the Kansas University School of Business in Lawrence. She has been a six-time artist-in-resident in the National Parks and was a 2009 recipient of the Kansas Arts Commission's Mid-Career Fellowship. Grossman earned degrees from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

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