

# What's up with this?

April 2024 - May 2025

The Kathryn A. Martin Library welcomes Duluth artist Kathy McTavish as our Artist in Residence. Really in residence. This includes an office and a key to the library.

We look forward to a period of exploration and explanation. An ode to libraries and a debunking of stereotypes. Listening, interacting, thinking.

This is about human-powered thinking, human-connected storytelling, human-organized objects, human-made knowledge. Actual Intelligence.

## Artist

Residing in the library, for the time being, the artist is an observer, a witness, to this amorphous organism. The outside view, the inside view. Watching. The people who use the library building. Use the materials, use the services. The people who work for the library. Build the processes, make them run, unstick the gears. And read.

The artist, in residence, collects observations, perceiving. How it all works. Makes sense in a new way, or doesn't make sense in a new way. Connects to larger concepts, or zooms in to the frustrations of finding the button that opens the pdf. Why is this book next to that one? Classification, call numbers. But why, though?

The haunted house of it all. The books speaking to each other. The constant circulation below the surface. The geometry of it, the physics, the philosophy. Pools of thought. and feeling.

Create a piece of art about the library.

How do you evoke *that* house?

The lines, the sounds,  
the breath of it?

Does this feel right?

## Librarian

Residing in the library, for what feels like a lifetime, or might be a lifetime, the librarian is an actor, a familiar of the amorphous organism. The inside view. Definitely the inside view. No sanctum, this. A mundane buzz of constant need. A proof half done. An ocean of things to read.

The resident librarian collects questions, responding. How it makes sense. Describes it in a new way or in the same old way. Points to the button that opens the PDF. Explains the order of the books on the shelf. Accepts the limitations. And. Reflects the larger concepts. This is much bigger than what happens in the library.

The house and home of it all. An everyday place. Tracks of people visible just at the surface. The architecture of it, the poetry, the stories. Pools of thought. and feeling.

Create a piece of art about the library.

How do you explain *that* house?

The lines, the sounds,  
the breath of it?

Does this feel right?

