

JENNIFER DRINKWATER



PUBLICATIONS

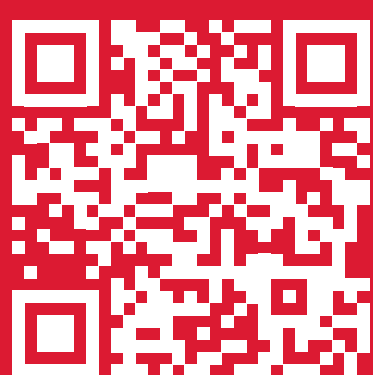
The What's Good Project has been exhibited in the following venues:

- Malkin Gallery, EE Bass Cultural Center, Greenville, Mississippi.
- Doyle G Heyveld Gallery, ArtHaus, Decorah, Iowa.
- Mills Gallery, Lubbers Center for Visual Arts, Central College, Pella, Iowa.
- Memorial Union Art Gallery, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.
- St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Ridgeland, Mississippi.
- La Poste, Perry, Iowa.
- Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, Iowa.
- Gallery 1, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

The What's Good Project has been featured in various articles, including:

- Visions
- the ISU alumni magazine
- The Ames Tribune
- Facets, a local Ames magazine for women
- La Poste, Perry, Iowa
- Mississippi-based Tri-Lakes Delta Journal
- Southern Jewish Life magazine
- Delta Magazine
- 2024 Explore Mahaska County Visitors Guide
- a forthcoming article in Inspire(d) magazine

October 22, 2019, Drinkwater was invited to speak about The What's Good Project on Talk of Iowa, guest of the Iowa Public Radio program.



Learn more at:
jenniferdrinkwater.com

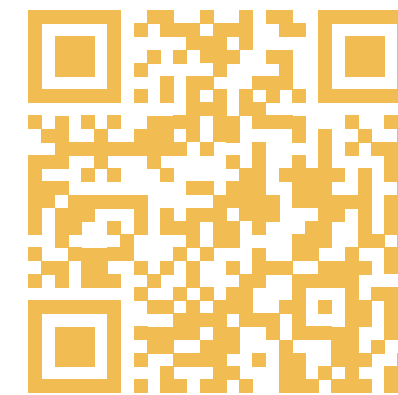
Art and Visual Culture
Associate Professor

Extension and Outreach
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CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT

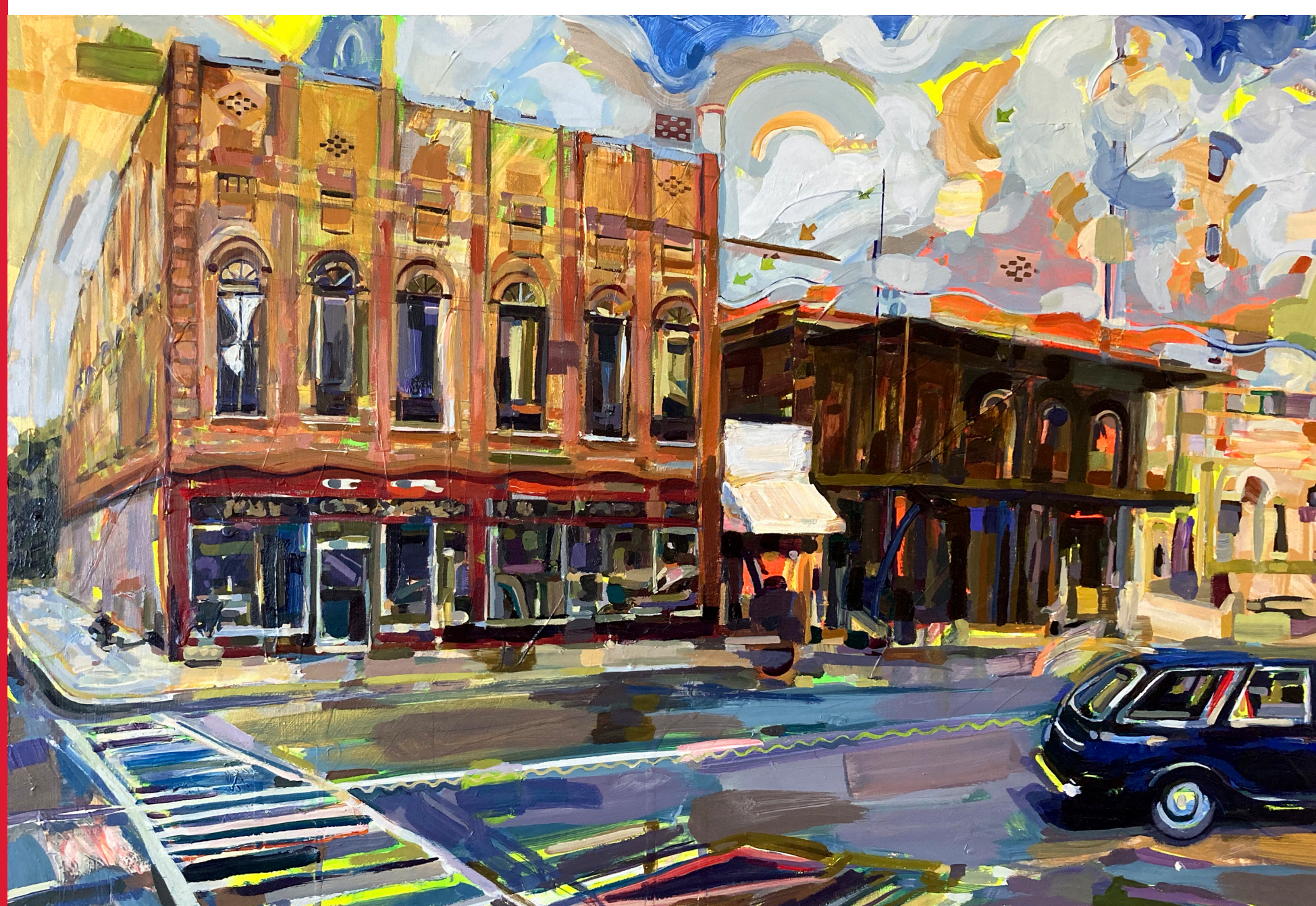
THE WHAT'S GOOD PROJECT: FINDING EVIDENCE FOR HOPE

In 2018, Drinkwater began The What's Good Project: an ongoing collaborative archive of "what's good" in communities across the United States via interviews, stories, and paintings. The What's Good Project builds upon sociologists Cornelia Butler Flora and Jan F. Flora's Community Capitals framework of asset-based community development that measures seven areas of community health: natural, political, social, human, cultural, built, and financial. According to research, shifting focus from community challenges to recognizing and strengthening community assets can result in more effective community improvement. In the last five years, Drinkwater has conducted interviews with nearly two dozen residents in Iowa and Mississippi with a place-based focus. These interviews have inspired eleven painting series, which have been exhibited in both Iowa and Mississippi, and writings that can be found here: whatsgoodproject.com



Deep Roots, acrylic on wood
36" x 48", 2022

At 15 people per square mile, Sharkey County, Mississippi, remains both very agrarian and intensely wild, as it houses both the Delta National Forest, the only bottomland hardwood national forest in the US, and the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex.



Open to Change, acrylic on wood
20" x 30", 2021

Despite a small population, Water Valley, Mississippi, has been home to one the first craft breweries in the state, Fat Possum Records, Violet Valley Bookstore (Mississippi's only queer feminist bookstore), and Base Camp Coding, a free, non-profit software development academy for Mississippi high-school seniors. Locals cite Water Valley residents are being open to change and willing to engage difference.



Gathering, acrylic on wood
12" x 12", 2023

When I asked Oskaloosa folks to tell me the community secrets of collaboration, more than one person described the ability to sit around a table together and make things happen. Not to put too fine a point on it, but sitting together, face-to-face, on a regular basis is a powerful habit for building goodwill in communities because it builds social capital.



Buxton, acrylic on wood
12" x 12", 2023

In 2022, the Nelson Pioneer Farm in Oskaloosa, Iowa, hosted Celebrating Buxton, a fundraiser to preserve the history of Buxton, a former coal-mining town in Mahaska county. Buxton was an integrated and predominantly African American community from 1880 to 1920. The Buxton community included Black doctors, lawyers, and business owners, as well as an integrated YMCA, community pool, and the Buxton Wonders, a winning Iowa baseball team.