

Higher Ground /Life on Six Acres
Paintings and Prints by Donald W. VanAuken
Artist Statement

A year-long analysis of space, focusing on a small a parcel of property in South Central Michigan.

My spouse and I live in a century-old farmhouse in Calhoun County, Michigan. This property is surrounded by small area of wooded glens and fields. Location and my surrounding environment have always played a crucial role in my creative process. Through the last year the confines of our six-acre property have been the border for which we have explored. This parcel of land and our close relationship to it has only grown in the past 12 months. With the change of seasons, to changes in a single week where local wild life and fauna are noted, cataloged. These forms have been utilized, within this setting as allegorical means to explore situations, quandaries and everyday experiences. This use of place as it exists in space has contributed to the larger narrative that is constantly evolving in my prints and paintings.