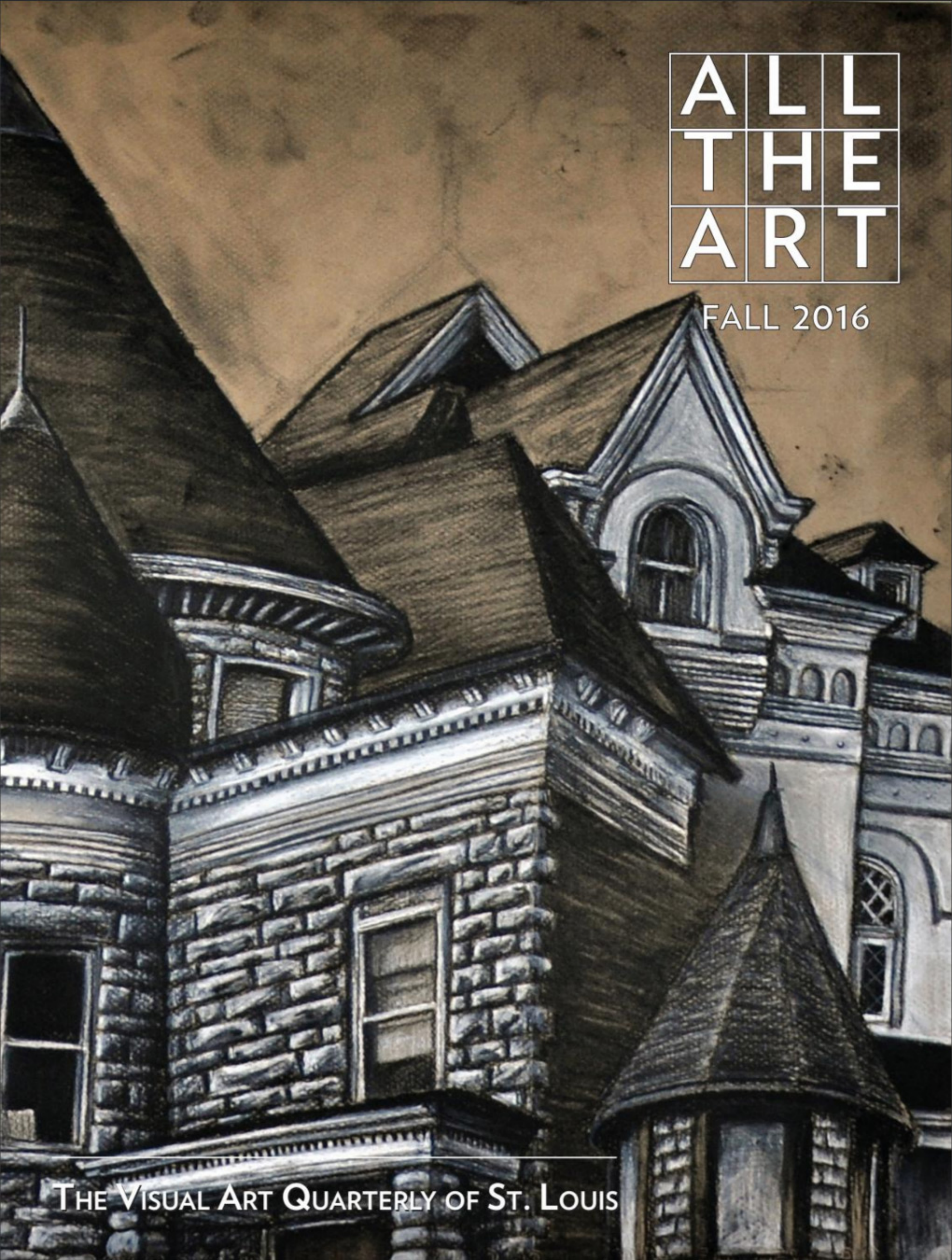


ALL THE ART

FALL 2016



THE VISUAL ART QUARTERLY OF ST. LOUIS

ONE THEORY BEHIND “HEALING ART”

By David Coblitz

After retiring from the Boeing Company as a developer of aircraft simulator visual systems, I took up photography as a second career and

creative outlet. At first I did any type of photographic work to gain experience, but soon learned that my creative interests were best served in the area of fine art photography. I was led to my current artistic focus completely accidentally through a business networking relationship.



David Coblitz, *Healing Art - Evidence Based Design*, (image courtesy of the artist)

A few years ago, I created a business networking/co-marketing group of companies that address the needs of seniors. One member was a medical interior designer, Myra Katz. She introduced me to Evidence Based Design (EBD) & suggested I look into EBD art or as I call it, “healing art.” I became intrigued at the power of art to create a healing atmosphere and began creating photographs specifically for this purpose. It appealed to the engineer in me that my art would not simply look pretty, but would perform a useful function.

My main focus now is on EBD art, art produced with the purpose to heal and release stress for those exposed to it and, in a medical

space, to reduce staff stress and improve patient satisfaction and outcomes. Making the effort to reduce staff stress level through changes in the work environment is one way that management can show respect and care for their staff. I posit that EBD healing art could be used as an indirect way to reduce staff stress levels and hence turnover. This effort is an ongoing experiment taking place currently in a senior living facility and soon in a second medical care office as I look to collect supporting data to show the effects of living with artwork designed specifically to promote well-being.

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