BIOGRAPHY: Peter Spooner, Curator

Peter Spooner teaches studio art and education courses for The College of St. Scholastica, Lake Superior College and University of Minnesota Duluth, in addition to working as a freelance curator, writer, and appraiser. He earned a BS in Art Education from the University of Wisconsin Stout, and MS and MFA degrees in painting and drawing from Illinois State University. He has held positions as an art educator, museum educator, university instructor, and non-profit gallery director.

Spooner has served as an exhibition juror and grant review panelist for numerous institutions, including the Illinois Arts Council, the Jerome Foundation, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Current and recent community involvement includes board service for the Duluth Public Arts Commission, Duluth Public Library and the Chester Bowl Improvement Club. He helped to found The Artist Fund, a non-profit serving regional artists with emergency funding.

In curatorial positions at Illinois State University (1988-92) and the Tweed Museum of Art (1994-2012), he organized scores of exhibitions on contemporary art, including solo exhibitions on Frank Big Bear, Wanda Gag, Frances Myers, Dennis Oppenheim, Philip Pearlstein, Rudy Autio and Truman Lowe.
He has developed exhibitions and publications rediscovering unresearched American artists, among them Gilbert Munger, David Ericson, and Knute Heldner, and has organized the travel of the Tweed Museum’s French Barbizon and 19th century American collections to Japan and Italy.

Spooner guest curated the exhibition *Sister Mary Charles: Engagement and Transcendence* for the Tweed Museum of Art and co-authored the book *Saved By Beauty: Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB (St. Scholastica Monastery)*.