

Hannah Hadley enjoys painting, nature, and reading. She studied fine art at St.Louis Community College before pursuing degrees in anthropology at Washington University in St.Louis and library/information science at Drexel University.

The vision for this mini-library is a garden at night. Night and nature provide a balance for the conceits of daytime society, the rules of humans vs those of a natural order. Gardens are human controlled aspects of nature. *The Song of Solomon* from western religious texts says that, “a woman is a garden enclosed” and the *hortus conclusus* (Latin for *enclosed garden*) theme of the European renaissance symbolized this containment of women under the guise of cultivating her virtue as directed by men. This library depicts scenes of gardens at night that are far less ordered, more representative of nature unbound. Pathways wind through the natural growth and lead into a mysterious dark portal of undefined potential or up to the stars. The largest garden painting and the depiction of the night sky on the ceiling are meant to bring a sense of the nature outside into the enclosed library space. The accessory pieces of the library are mostly not glued down and can be posed outside of the box to further extend the scene towards experiencing the natural world. The books have blank pages and the artist intends them to be filled over time, and/or swapped out as with the natural growth of intellectual pursuits. The outside of the box shows pairs of io moths and fireflies. The underside of the box features a silver fox, a guide that is symbolic of age, beauty, and cleverness. In Celtic folklore the fox may also help humans navigate *the Otherworld*, a supernatural realm beyond consciousness.