Abstract
Encompassing approximately 7.7 million acres of land around southern Lake Michigan and its waters, the Chicago Wilderness spans portions of 4 states (WI, IL, IN, MI). The Chicago Wilderness Organization, is a regional alliance whose mission includes “…leading strategy to preserve, improve, and expand nature and quality of life.” In 2017, forty member organizations were asked to select 12 species for monitoring and conservation.

“Bats to Butterflies” is a series of 12-plus paintings created between 2019-2021 that coincide with this Chicago Wilderness list. Conceived as educational tools, environmental elements are integrated into each painting. The animal in each painting is seen through a square viewfinder or window, deliberately isolating the subject forcing the viewer to consider the confinement and fragmentation of the animals’ environments.

Acknowledgments
Key Chicago Wilderness organizations working with each species:

- Audubon Chicago Region - Bobolink & Henslow’s Sparrow
- The Field Museum - Monarch
- Illinois Natural History Survey - Blanding’s Turtle
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum - Blue Spotted Salamander
- Lake County Forest Preserves - Blanding’s Turtle
- Lincoln Park Zoo - Little Brown Bat
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum - Smooth Green Snake
- The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter - Red-headed Woodpecker
- Openlands - Ellipse & Mottled Sculpin
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum - Regal Fritillary & Rusty-patched Bumblebee
- US Fish & Wildlife Service - Monarch