



John Knight

Growing into the Clouds

June 4 - 28, 2026
First Friday Opening
June 5 5-7:30 pm

CALDBECK GALLERY

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image: WILD COLUMBINE IN FIELD 2025 acrylic on canvas 48 x 36 inches

GROWING INTO THE CLOUDS

My paintings depict common plants and wildflowers that I encounter in Maine and elsewhere in fields, beaches, roadsides and along railroad tracks. The plants include natives such as Red Columbine or Joe-Pye Weed as well as some European transplants and invasives. As the plants send out flowers and shoots, growing higher, they become the go-between connecting the earth and sky, and the plants themselves intermingle with their surroundings. Weeds become monumental in the paintings, running the whole vertical length of the compositions, uniting solid ground below with atmosphere above. The color and shape of radiating petals of a particular flower have a specific number and formation and observing the whole plant opens other meanings relating to its use as a food, medicine or textile/building material.

Tenacious weeds grow even without directed planting and landscaping. Their surprises contrast with gridded plots of daffodils or tulips, and the vast, uniform orchards or crop fields that fill abundant but homogeneous produce bins in supermarkets across the country.

Dark storm clouds moving in or out about the landscapes creates drama in the paintings. It also hints at things like climate change, and the resilient plants often grow in disturbed land, sprouting up after a storm or a burn. They can be a symbol of hope, putting down roots and visual display after some turmoil.



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SOAPWORT IN FIELD
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



WHITE CAMPION IN FIELD
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



COMFREY IN FIELD
2026
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



BUTTERCUP AND RED CLOVER
2025
acrylic on canvas
36 x 36 inches



FORKING LARKSPUR IN FIELD
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



CARDINAL FLOWER AND SUN
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



COSMOS AND MOON
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



CHICORY AND ELECAMPANE
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



FORKED BLUE CURLS IN FIELD
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches



BEE BALM IN FIELD
2025
acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches