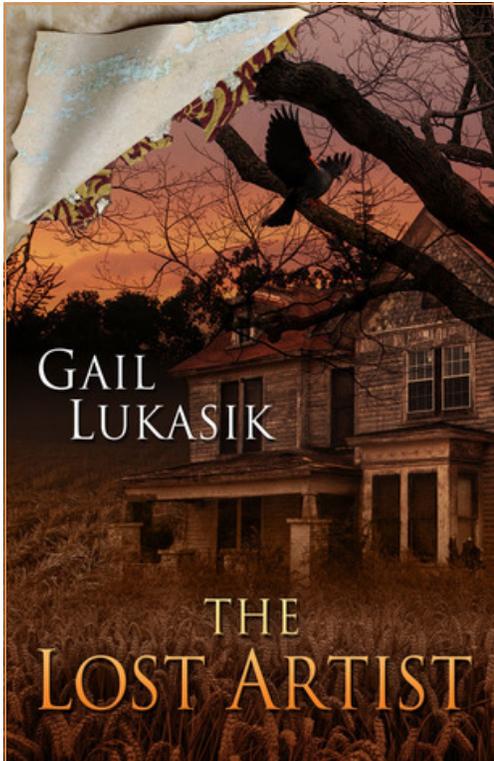


Book Club – Monday, May 20 ~ 9:30 a.m.

‘The Lost Artist’ by Gail Lukasik

“Lukasik has crafted a highly intriguing tale loaded with suspense and historic interest.” --Kirkus Review

"Rose's present-day sleuthing and the intertwined tale of the original homeowners command our interest until the final page." --Publishers Weekly



Chicago performance artist Rose Caffrey is desperate to sell her sister's nineteenth-century farmhouse in southern Illinois. She's haunted by her sister's death from a fall inside the house.

But when Rose discovers three murals in an upstairs bedroom depicting strange images of Native Americans and bizarre nineteenth-century landscapes, she becomes obsessed with knowing the artist's identity and the meaning of the murals. Buried for over one hundred and seventy-five years under wallpaper and paint, the murals hint at secrets tied to the old house, the artist, and the nearby 1836 Trail of Tears Camp Ground Cemetery. Only one mural remains to be uncovered. And Rose is convinced the hidden mural holds the key to deciphering the other three.

As art restorer Alex Hague peels away the layers of wallpaper from the last mural, Rose searches for the artist's identity. But all her discoveries only add to the murals' mysteries.

What the last mural reveals launches Rose and Alex on a quest for one of the greatest lost art treasures of sixteenth century America. Pursued by an unknown adversary who

seems to know their every move, they race across the country hunting for the treasure. What Rose never expects to find are crimes going back over four hundred years with the potential to transform American history—if she can escape the fate of the other lost artists before her.

The Lost Artist is a fast-paced mystery thriller that shatters the very foundation of American history. Beneath the layers of time lurks a truth worth killing for.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gail Lukasik was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and was a dancer with the Cleveland Civic Ballet Company. Lisel Mueller described her book of poems, *Landscape Toward a Proper Silence*, as a “splendid collection.” In 2002 she was awarded an Illinois Arts Council award for her work. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she taught writing and literature. She writes the Leigh Girard mystery series. Kirkus Reviews described her second Leigh Girard mystery, *Death's Door*, as “fast-paced and literate, with a strong protagonist and a puzzle that keeps you guessing.”

