

Calendar of Events:

Dale Nichols:
Transcending Regionalism
May 20- November 18, 2011

3rd Annual Art and Poetry Event
August 14, 2011, 4:30pm

David Sebberson:
The New Regionalism
Sept. 17 - November 13, 2011
Reception: Sept. 18, 2011, 1-4pm

Annual Members Banquet
October 1, 2011, TBA

V...Vaughan Artist Workshop
October 8-10, 2011

Nichols' Round Barn Art
October 12-24, 2011

Museum Hours:
Wed- Sat 10am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm
Appointments and tours available
Free admission

575 E Street, David City, NE 68632
402.367.4488
www.bonecreek.org



Dale Nichols, *When Day is Done*, 1951, Gold Seal Puzzle, Private Collection Loan

Curator's Note:

"I possess a profound belief that art reaches its maximum importance when it inspires those with whom it comes in contact." – Dale Nichols (1904-1995)

Nichols would be pleased by the inspired responses to our exhibition of his artwork. Ironically, now, sixteen years after his death, the retrospective, *Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism*, provides for national public viewing and inspiration that was impossible during Nichols' lifetime. Great works from the 1930's through the 1970's are together for the first time at one time and in one place. Bone Creek's nationwide visitors comment that they are indeed inspired by this art by Dale Nichols.

I'm inspired by all the paintings in the exhibition, but especially consider six artworks to be American masterpieces. These six have never been seen together before. Half of them are 'Regionalist' works. Half of them 'transcend Regionalism'. Four of them in our south gallery are from the 1930's and 1940's. The other two in our north gallery are from the 1950's and 1960's. I invite you to discover these masterpieces in the exhibition. Perhaps you'll see what you consider to be another masterpiece. Maybe you will be as inspired by these masterpieces as I am. You'll very likely be inspired by one or more of the thirty artworks in the exhibition.

Our exhibit shows Nichols as one of America's greatest artists. Artists feel fortunate we make one or a handful of 'home run' paintings in a lifetime. A singular iconic painting often highlights a major museum retrospective on a great artist's lifetime body of work. Each of our Dale Nichols exhibited works is a new intellectual and visual concept coming only from Nichols. Each painting has content with a defining moment. Each exhibited painting is a special new creation, not simply a variation of an exemplary repeated design or technique. In my opinion, due to these achievements, Nichols was Nebraska's greatest artist, and was one of America's most exceptional Agrarian Artists.

My thesis that Nichols was the fourth Regionalist and that his work transcends traditional Regionalism will be part of a Bone Creek discussion on 'New Regionalism'. In September join this session following a talk by **David Sebberson** on his abstract Regionalist art in our Emerging Artist Gallery.

All of this solidifies Bone Creek's national role as the Center for Nichols' Studies. I'm delighted to be receiving new inquiries about donations of Nichols' art and other Agrarian Art. Our exhibit is leading to newly discovered Nichols' art, letting us better educate you on Nichols' art mediums, different surfaces, and various sizes of artworks. Thanks to all who support the Center for Nichols' Studies.



- Mark L. Moseman, Chief Curator

Board of Directors:
Anna Nolan (Covault)
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Our Mission is to be the National Center for Preserving, Viewing, and Learning about Exceptional Agrarian Art.

Agrarian- pertaining to lands, fields, or their tenure

www.bonecreek.org
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David City, NE 68632
575 E Street

BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

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DALE NICHOLS TRANSCENDING REGIONALISM

On view now through November 18 is the major retrospective including some of Nichols' finest paintings. The companion book published about Nichols has reproduced all of those paintings and many more. As the Center for Nichols' Studies, Bone Creek retains and continues to accumulate a wealth of research materials concerning the life and work of Dale Nichols. This exhibition raises his work to a new level in American Art History. There is now much easier access to learn about Nichols and still much more to discover.

Several new collections have come to light that give further evidence to the breadth of subject and influence that Nichols has had in history. I am pleased to share some of these examples.

In the collection of the Seward Alaska Public Library is contained two historically important paintings gifted by Nichols to the library. One of these is "Cold Waters" (image lower left) a powerful early depiction of the awesomeness of the Alaska landscape that Nichols was taken with. Painted in the inspiration of Rockwell Kent, the faces of the mountain have been simplified and reflected in the silhouette of the cloudy sky.

In a private collection in Texas, "The Golden

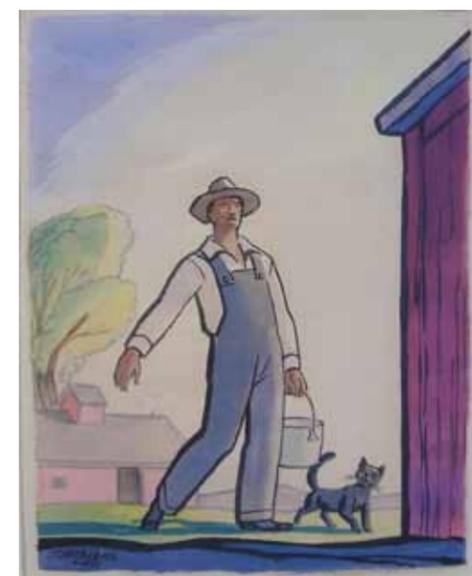
Harvest" (image above) opened areas of new discovery to identify the "original" version of this very popular subject. A similar composition has been made repeatedly by Nichols and can be seen as a poster, a black and white lithograph, and on the back of a set of playing cards. I have also been able to identify several finished oil versions with various dates and different enough compositions to be distinctly unique. The popular subject of the sweeping wheat field with a peaceful farmhouse is now considered one of Nichols' "encore" performances. He wrote that much like famous musicians who play the same symphony repeatedly to the pleasure of audiences, painters can likewise repeat a masterpiece for the enjoyment of their audiences.

Another collection has interesting connections to one of Nichols' first promoters, Norman Forgue of the Black Cat Press. Nichols' first book *Philosophy of Aesthetics* was published

in 1935 by the Black Cat Press. Original "paste-ups" of this book have been discovered along with a collection of small paintings by Nichols authentically representing the Nebraska landscape (image below).

A recent intriguing find is a watercolor of the farmer heading to the barn for milk (image lower right). Painted in 1950 when Nichols was in transition between Arizona and Mississippi, this charming sketch may be part of a larger series in a private collection.

Please continue to share your stories and collections with us.



NEWS from the field

Nichols reunion- The opening reception for "Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism" was a family reunion of sorts for the Nichols family and for the increasing friends of Bone Creek. Thanks to those who helped make this such a special day!



Project collaboration- This summer Bone Creek as been teaming up with the Butler County Arts Council, the Larson Tractor Museum, and the Gerald Ford Conservation Center to provide fun new programs for you. Next summer will be even more eventful!



Meet the Board- Timothy Wollmer serves as the legal council for Bone Creek. Wollmer is a partner at the law firm of Egr, Birkel & Wollmer, P.C. here in David City, Tim grew up on his family's dairy farm near Mauston, WI. He spent his undergraduate years at Jamestown College in North Dakota earning a B.A. in History and Political Science. After working in the law department at Duke Energy, Inc. in Denver, he received his juris doctor of law from Creighton in 2001.



COLLECTION

The museum greatly appreciates the recent gift of Kathryn Abresch Urbanek to add to the collection works by a fine art photographer as well as an Illinois based painter. Also, recently added to the collection are two small Nichols prints from Mr. and Mrs. Kaul. Thanks to these generous donors for helping build the museum's greatest asset.

ARTIST WORKSHOP

with V...Vaughan

Texas artist V...Vaughan will be giving a plein aire oil painting workshop October 8-10. With over 19 years of experience, Virginia teaches foundational tools to break down complex forms into simple shapes quickly and accurately. The workshop includes three days of instruction, independent studio time, and social events. The fee is \$275 plus the cost of lodging and meals. There is still space for you. Register today; go to Events page at bonecreek.org.



DALE NICHOLS CORNER



With your support, our efforts for the Dale Nichols project were a success, however we want to give all of you the opportunity to support the museum in all of its programs and activities.

- \$10- Gardener (Ensures that you receive our quarterly newsletter and event notifications by mail.)
- \$50- Sower
- \$100- Harvester
- \$250- Sodbuster
- \$500- Homesteader
- \$1000- Pioneer
- \$ ___ - Other

By partnering with us, your contribution is always tax deductible. Make your contribution today addressed to Bone Creek Art Museum at 575 E St., David City, NE 68632.

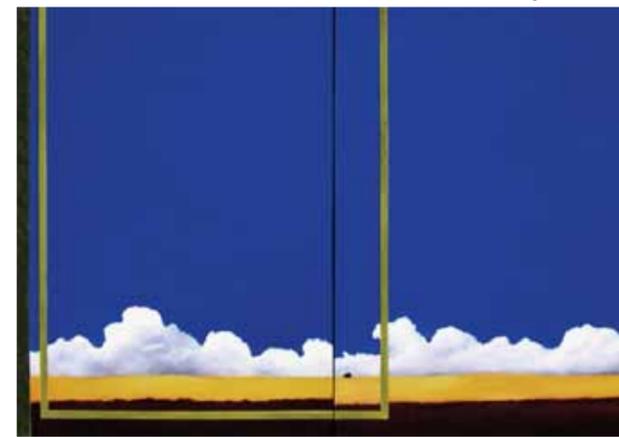
The National Center for
PRESERVING
VIEWING
LEARNING
Agarian art

Newsletter written and designed by A. M. Guenther

Emerging Artist Gallery in the Legion Building

David Sebberson The NEW Regionalism

Image below: "Open", 2006, oil, 43x62", Collection of the artist.



Now a professor at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, David Sebberson is originally from Oakland, Nebraska. His work will be exhibited in the Emerging Artist Gallery, Sept. 17 - Nov. 13, 2011. Taking a scholarly stylized approach to the history of the plains, Sebberson newly invents the regionalist genre to an abstraction of basic elemental components. He will be speaking at his opening reception, Sept. 18th, about what viewers can glean from the traditional regionalism of Dale Nichols and the New Regionalism.