

BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agrarian Art Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue I
February 2011

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Calendar of Events:

Curator's Note:

**Matthew Jacobson:
Wisconsin Workhorses**
On view through February 27, 2011
Reception: Saturday, Feb. 26, 5-7pm

Artist Workshop with M. Jacobson
Saturday, February 26, 2011

Jim Hamil: Farmland USA
March 2 - May 15, 2011
Reception: Saturday, March 5, 3-5pm

Artist Workshop with Jim Hamil
Sat. and Sunday, March 5-6, 2011

**Layer Upon Layer:
Elaine Lierly Jones & Jerene Kruse**
March 16 - May 8, 2011
Reception: Sunday, March 27, 1-4pm

Grant Wood Forum
Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 5:30-7pm

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

“You have a chance to get what you want if you go out and work for it, but you must really work, and not just talk about it.”

– Georgia O’Keefe



We ‘really work’ to build a world class art collection. The heart of every great art museum is a collection of major artworks representing the brand of the museum. On the fourth anniversary of beginning in March of 2007, we have the foundation of a great Agrarian Art collection. Primarily from donations and loans, works by major historically recognized American artists **Homer, Dunn, Lougheed, Nichols, Benton, Wood, Curry, Sandzen, and Gwathmey** have attracted visitors from 43 states and several foreign countries. We have indeed become the National Center for Exceptional Agrarian Art. To get repeat visits and grow this from 80% to 100% of the USA, we must build an even more impressive collection of art by historically recognized major American artists.

We have only just begun to partner with generous donors and lenders to grow this collection. We seek more significant art by the aforementioned artists. We’d also like to add works by the following historically recognized major American artists: **Peter Hurd, Raymond Eastwood, Eric Sloan, Andrew Wyeth, Maynard Dixon, Rockwell Kent, N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, Grandma Moses, Eastman Johnson, Edward Hopper, Jackson Pollock, Ogden Pleissner, Norman Rockwell, Marvin Cone, and Georgia O’Keefe**. Yes, modernist artists Hopper, Pollock and O’Keefe did create significant Agrarian Art. We need to educate the public about this phenomenon. We can’t tell this full story of American Agrarian Art until we add these works to our collection to show how this art relates to other important Agrarian Art. We’re very thankful to generous art collectors who occasionally donate and loan these historical works to our collection.

By comparison we’re doing fairly well at adding contemporary Agrarian Art to our collection. Affordable prices allow more collectors to donate. We’re also usually able to acquire contemporary Agrarian Art from the exceptional artists participating in our changing artist exhibitions.

Our new Featured Exhibition will be a retrospective of paintings by **Jim Hamil**, one of America’s foremost watercolor artists. Jim encouraged me when I started painting many years ago. Our Emerging Artist Exhibition features two artists. As the guest juror, I awarded **Jerene Kruse** “Best of Show” for her ceramic work at the last annual juried exhibit of the Columbus Area Artists Association. Jerene joins **Elaine Lierly Jones**, a Signature member of Mid America Pastel Society, in an exciting two person exhibition. In March please come and experience these compelling exhibitions at the museum.

-Mark L. Moseman, Curator

Board of Directors:

Anna Nolan Covault
Mark L. Moseman
Allen Covault
Michael L. Moravec
Paul T. Perske
Ryan Cameron
Carol Moseman
Tim Wollmer

Agrarian- pertaining to lands, fields, or their tenure

Our mission is to be the National Center for preserving, viewing, and learning about exceptional Agrarian Art.

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

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MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

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Jim Hamil: Farmland USA

On the eve of a new book, Jim Hamil is looking back on his long successful career. After working for Hallmark cards for fifteen years, Hamil turned to painting full time. He earned a degree from the University of Kansas in Fine Art in 1958 and has always been drawn to local subjects for inspiration. Hamil has a long resume of exhibitions, awards, and inclusion in publications. Two of the most notable awards that Hamil has received are the American Royal Western Artist of the Year and the Kansas Governor's Arts Award. Today you can find Hamil painting in his studio—the new addition on the back of their home. He paints mainly by commission now and for galleries which carry his work.

This collection of watercolors from the artist's collection gives tribute to *Farmland USA*, a book that was published in 1975 and sold over 15,000 copies. The show includes farmsteads, fields, feedlots, and even larger cities all vital to life in the Heartland. Hamil takes an artistic perspective to the beautiful varied terrain and types of agriculture that can be found within this region. His artistic eye captures for viewers the often overlooked places or underappreciated moments, which upon consideration speak deeply to the culture of the region.

Though watercolor is a rather fast working medium it is not an easy medium. Once an artist makes a stroke with his brush, that's it. It can't be taken off and because of the transparent

nature of watercolor it is not easily painted over either. One has to be very knowledgeable of his subject to paint it right the first time. Hamil knows intimately the landscapes of the Midwest that he paints, whether it's how fall leaves form the shape of a tree, or how a blanket of snow reflects the sun's light making it appear shades of pink and blue. Hamil captures a full range of texture and depth. He is also recognized for being a careful observer. When painting from life an artist must examine closely the color and shape of the details to make it convincing, all with only a gesture of watery pigment.

Hamil is an excellent teacher of the techniques needed to successfully achieve a sense of space and form on a two-dimensional surface.



Hamil teaches watercolor workshops across the country. He has been named a "Friend of Education" by Phi Delta Kappa (an education association) because of the teaching and painting demonstrations he does for schools, especially in the Kansas City metro area (although he has done so in Colorado, Texas, and Nebraska).

Local students will gain an appreciation of the wonders of watercolor, as the artist has generously arranged to give painting demonstrations in the David City, Nebraska schools.

Images: Top (left to right): *Rusted Roof Ranch House*, *Yamp River Valley Winter*, *The Turning Season*, Below: *Roadside Farm Winter*; all watercolors from the artist's collection.

NEWS from the field

Agrarian Legacy- Gallery 92 West of the Fremont Area Art Association is exhibiting artwork from Bone Creek Museum's collection. "Agrarian Legacy: Works from the Bone Creek Collection" will be on view Feb. 8- 28, 2011 in Fremont, Nebraska.

Gift Shop- Help us decide what merchandise we need to expand our gift shop by taking a short survey. Go to www.bonecreek.org/join.php

Jacobson Workshop- Sign up for the Content and Compositional Choices workshop with guest artist Matthew Jacobson, Feb. 26, 2-5pm. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.



Tim and Lori Wollmer and Mark Moseman, Curator with Vivian Trowbridge, Volunteer in the background at Jacobson exhibition.

Meet the Board- Ryan Cameron has served on the Board of Directors since 2009 acting as architectural liaison. After graduating with numerous awards and accolades from the UNL Master's of Architecture program in 2008, he traveled to Europe to study European architecture on his own. Returning, he obtained a position at the Lincoln firm, VIA. His exceptional design skills led by his passion for detail helped him while designing hospitals. Ryan is LEED Accredited as well as an EDAC architecture professional.



COLLECTION

Grant Wood- A fragment of the Corn Room mural from the Chieftain Hotel, Council Bluffs, Iowa is on view through May 15. Wood painted this historic mural in 1926 and the Bluffs Arts Council has a campaign to restore and reassemble the pieces. Learn more on April 27, 5:30-7pm.

Emerging Artist Gallery in the Legion Building

Layer Upon Layer: Elaine Lierly Jones & Jerene Kruse

The world is not flat. Nature is not two dimensional. Through form and proportion, art communicates the beauty of our environment. Visit an exhibition of pottery and pastels that captures the layers of color and texture in the natural world. Jones and Kruse's artworks compliment each other as they invite viewers to look closely and consider the symbolism of form and color. Kruse of Albion, Nebraska and Jones of Kansas City will present their most recent works at a reception on Sunday, March 27, 1-4pm.

Images: Top: Jerene Kruse, pottery, artist collection, Bottom: Elaine Lierly Jones, *Flint Hills* pastel, artist collection.

March
16-8
May 8



ARTIST WORKSHOP

with Jim Hamil

Watercolorist Jim Hamil will be teaching a two-day workshop in David City, March 5-6, Saturday 9am-1pm and/or Sunday 1-5pm. This is an incredible opportunity to learn from one of the best in a setting where you get individual time with the instructor at a very low cost of \$20/per day in advance or \$25 at the door, plus \$5 for materials. Space is limited, so sign up now for one or two days. For more information about materials call 402-367-4488 or register online at bonecreek.org, and click on Events.



DALE NICHOLS CORNER



Blockbuster exhibition "Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism" is fast approaching. The long awaited survey of Nichols' subject and style will open May 20 and run through November 18, 2011. The Collection gallery will be cleared out to make room for the exquisite paintings borrowed from museums and private collections across the country.

Lenders Ron and Sheila Ritsema of Michigan recently visited the museum to loan their Guatemalan oil painting.



Curators with the Ritsemas and *Road from the Lake* by Dale Nichols.