

BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agrarian Art Newsletter

Volume III, Issue IV
November 2010

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Calendar of Events:

Leonard Steinauer: Folk Art Paintings and Sculpture
Sept. 1- Nov. 21, 2010

Matthew Jacobson: Wisconsin Workhorses
Dec. 1, 2010 - Feb. 27, 2011
Reception: Saturday, Feb. 26, 5-7pm

Volunteer Christmas Party
Dec. 9, 2010, 4pm

Coffee with the Curators
January 20, 2011, 10am

Artist Workshop with M. Jacobson
Saturday, February 26, 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 know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."
— Frank Lloyd Wright



In less than three years of following this advice, we've become the National Center for Agrarian Art. At our October annual dinner, we were inspired by seeing an architectural preview of a bigger and better museum. Keynote speaker **Michael Duty**, Director, Art of the West, Heritage Auction Galleries, Dallas, Texas, urged us on with his speech, "Ten Steps to Becoming a Great Museum". After visiting with Michael in Oklahoma City a couple of years ago, I learned about his experience in starting both the Rockwell and Eiteljorg museums, and later asked him be our featured speaker. He didn't disappoint us. He showed us how museums similar to ours are successful in achieving their missions. We're now refocused on the above words of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Great Art Collections are the heart of great museums. Our Collection has recently been significantly improved. We have new loans of paintings by major American artists. William D. Smith, Lincoln, Nebraska, kindly loaned a painting and a print by American Impressionist **Birger Sandzen**. Sandzen's paintings are compared to those of Vincent Van Gogh. The Bluffs Arts Council loaned a painting panel done by **Grant Wood** for a 1926 mural in the Hotel Chieftain in Council Bluffs, Iowa. John Dewhirst, Edmonds, Washington, donated "Vermont Winter Morning", a painting by **Archibald Fleming**. Joining these artworks are exceptional works by contemporary artists, including a loaned Pop Art sculpture created by **Sheila Genteman**, an acquired textile painting created by **Karen Krull Robart**, and a loaned painting created by **Matthew Jacobson**, as well as other loaned and gifted paintings, drawings and prints.

Our selections for Featured Exhibitions continue to be very exciting. Most recently, I was privileged to select a Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art Exhibition Award, and present it to **Don Weller** at the "26th Annual American Plains Artists (APA) Juried Exhibit" at Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. We look forward to showing Don's exquisite watercolor paintings of contemporary ranch work near his home in Oakley, Utah.

After traveling to New Visions Gallery in Marshfield, Wisconsin to see Matthew Jacobson's work in the annual "Culture & Agriculture" national juried exhibition; I visited his Wisconsin studio and invited him to have a Featured Artist exhibition at Bone Creek. Because Matthew owns and works his own draft horses; you'll see great paintings unlike those of any other painter. This is the kind of extraordinary Agrarian Artist that we encourage with Bone Creek Featured Artist exhibitions.

- Mark L. Moseman, Curator

Board of Directors:

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

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

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402.367.4488
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575 E Street

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MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

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Matthew Jacobson: Wisconsin Workhorses



“Wisconsin Workhorses” is an appropriate title to describe the powerful draft horses that fill the large canvases by Matthew Jacobson. Jacobson could also be affectionately described as a workhorse. He works diligently at breeding Belgian draft horses, maintaining a 38-acre farm often with horse driven mechanization, running Matt’s Custom Framing and art supply store in downtown Rhinelander, and making time for painting images of his agrarian livelihood.

Raised in northern Wisconsin, Jacobson was not interested in farming or horses as a young boy. He did attend church camp where he was exposed to the animals. To get through college at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, Jacobson again found himself led to horses. Making horseshoes was a unusual occupation for a young art student. More closely connected to his training is a long resume of sports and athletic illustrations. With an art education degree and a new wife, Jacobson left college behind for a life centered on God, family, and the land. What has followed is this unique body of work.

Jacobson has become recognized for a signature style and subject matter. Jacobson’s work is particularly striking and iconographic because of the consideration he gives to place, motion, and mood. Paintings like *Man with Three Horses* embody the close bond between man and his horse. He intentionally paints in large scale with careful attention to proportion communicating the enormous size of these animals.

Even a tall man is dwarfed by the height of this large breed of Belgians.

One painting in the exhibit is over seven feet wide. Hanging on the wall, viewers will truly get the sense of the size of these beautiful workhorses.

These gentle giants are amazingly strong. I recently attended the annual Draft Horse Classic in my hometown of Grass Valley, California. In the lightweight pull competition a pair of Brabant Belgians weighing 3295 lbs. pulled 3050lbs. The winning team for the heavyweight pull, Percheron horses Donnie and Sheila weighed 3700lbs. and pulled an amazing 4500lbs. which is the equivalent of a mid-sized car with no convenient wheels to get things rolling. This is very impressive to watch from the grandstands and it is downright intimidating when standing on their level.

The love for these animals and the role they play in our country’s history is



being revived and renewed throughout our nation. More and more people are restoring and utilizing horse drawn farm mechanization. These animals and implements were vital to the development of our lands in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. Jacobson and his wife are setting an example in their state for stewardship of the land, respect for nature, and preservation of family values.

Images- Above: *Field Preparation*, oil, 60x22”, On loan from the artist. Below: *Man with Three Horses*, oil, 40x24”, On loan from the artist.

**December 1-
February 27**

NEWS from the field

Upcoming Projects- A collaborative project is in the beginning stages with the Boston Studio Project, also of David City, to create a traveling photography exhibit available for art centers and galleries in the region.

Children’s Folk Art- The Educational committee has put together some great activities for school students, including making folk art with found objects inspired by Leonard Steinauer.

National Artists Visit- Recently over 20 artists from the American Plains Artists Association toured the museum as part of their 26th annual juried exhibit weekend. Pictured below are artists Fritz Heron, APA Board member; Judy McElroy, APA Show



Chairman; with Curator Mark L. Moseman.

Volunteer Appreciation- Bone Creek could not remain open without the dedication of our volunteers. Volunteers make an important contribution to our mission and we are so thankful for each one. Our volunteers of the season for 2010 are spring- Susan Bongers, summer- Shirley Peters, fall- Vivian Trowbridge, and winter- Jack Eberly. We invite all of our volunteers to join us for a Christmas party on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 9 at 4pm.

COLLECTION

The Collection Gallery has an addition of art by one of the artists on our wish list. For the last several months, work by Kansas artist Birger Sandzen (1871-1954) has been on the What’s On View is Up to You display. Mr. William D. Smith has graciously lent us a Sandzen watercolor and a woodblock print. We are pleased to showcase these in our Collection Gallery.

Charting the Future at the Annual Banquet

Current and future Bone Creek members were enlightened and encouraged to learn of the next steps the museum is preparing to take. Guest speaker Michael Duty of Heritage Auctions joined us on October 9 to share ten steps to becoming a great museum.

Other talks were on 'Stewardship' by Associate Curator Amanda Mobley, 'Funding' by Board Treasurer Michael L. Moravec, and the 'State of the Museum' by Curator Mark L. Moseman.

Board member and architectural consultant Ryan Cameron presented an architectural concept for the possible future home

of the museum.

Top: Rendering of future museum building designed by Ryan Cameron. Bottom: Michael Duty with Bone Creek team courtesy of The Banner-Press.



ARTIST WORKSHOP

with Matthew Jacobson



Join us for: “Content and Compositional Choices”. A workshop with Wisconsin artist, Matthew Jacobson.

Jacobson will present a workshop about his techniques to carefully consider subject matter to create a defining moment. The workshop will include a one hour painting demonstration, artist lecture and Q&A. The workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 26, 2-5pm. Cost is \$20 or \$25 at the door. Seating is limited. For more information, go to www.bonecreek.org.

Grow with Us!

We welcome our growing readership and new museum patrons. Thank you to all of our donors for supporting another year of great art and educational programs. We invite you to stay involved and renew your support.

DALE NICHOLS CORNER



Dale Nichols has been the focus of much attention and research here at Bone Creek. In part this is in preparation for the upcoming Nichols exhibition, May 2011. His work is part of a larger resurgence in America to revive appreciation for regional art. Many untold stories and hidden treasures have been overlooked in mainstream art. With colleagues across the country, Bone Creek joins the conversation to strengthen rural communities, encourage healthy living, and uphold great artistic achievements.

Bone Creek quarterly newsletter is written and designed by A. Mobley, Associate Curator