

BALLAD OF THE FARM

THEN, NOW,
TOMORROW

MAY 13 - SEPT 13, 2015

BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

BONE CREEK MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART: THEN, NOW, TOMORROW

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Bone Creek Museum is the only museum in the nation exclusively devoted to agrarian art with a mission statement centered on connecting people to the land through art.

Director Carol Kobza leads a team of over thirty volunteers, part-time Curator Amanda Mobley Guenther and an eight member board of directors in offering art exhibitions, educational outreach, humanities programs, musical performances, poetry readings, art talks and artist workshops. In its seven-year history the museum has received visitors from all 50 states and seven countries. Funded by 290 members nationwide, sponsors, and project grants, the museum continues to grow.

THEN In 2007 a small group of volunteers founded the museum in the belief that small towns deserve great art. David City is the hometown of nationally known Regionalist artist Dale Nichols and his work remains the cornerstone of the collection.

In 2008 the museum began its programs and over its history has offered forty-two art exhibitions.

In May 2011 *Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism* opened the museum's first major touring exhibition. It toured nationally with an accompanying catalog documenting the life and work of Nichols.

In 2012 Henry Adams of The Smithsonian blog *Articulations* described *Transcending Regionalism* this way: "One of the most provocative exhibitions in the United States right now was organized by an institution that's a bit off the beaten track: *The Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art in David City, Nebraska...* It's impressive that such a small community has produced an ambitious exhibition and book of this scale, roughly on a par with those produced by America's largest museums."

NOW *Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow* was inspired by the idea that Bone Creek Museum belongs to our family of supporters, educators, students, and artists.

More than an art exhibition *Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow* is an authentic collaboration between artist and community.

People from throughout the Midwest are assisting in telling the story of farming and rural life through their historic farm photographs.

PHOTOGRAPH LENDERS

The museum received an outpouring of photographs and stories that resulted in a collection of more than 300 images that chronicle farming and rural life from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s. We thank them for their generosity.

Judene Abels	Russell Krupicka
Janice Aschoff	Donna Kuhnel
Tom and Barbara Barlean	Tom and Jackie Martens
Mrs. Clarence (Ludy) Birkel	Sally McLaughlin
Walter and Nancy Bohaty	Kathy Myers
Sue Bougger	George and Elizabeth Passela
Marilyn and Arlo Bower	Sheryl Piere
Judy Brezina	Carey Potter
Sandy Bruckner	Richard and Virginia Rerucha
Robert and Sharon Cerv	Brenda Rotherham
George and Bev Clymer	Terry Rumler Haugen
Allen Covault	Dan Schafer
Donna Dubsy	Cheri Schrader
Del and Brenda Ficke	Gene and Irene Sobota
Eugene and Melba Glock	Linda Soukup
Larry and Kristi Griffiths	Matt Steinhausen
Dot and Jack Hain	Martha Suchy
Linda Hermes	V... Vaughan
Earl Joy	Michael Wilson
Carol Kobza	

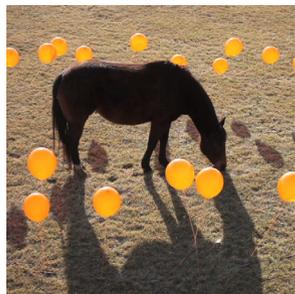
MESSAGE FROM GUEST CURATOR JAMES JONES

We conducted a call for artists from the six states that are served by Mid-America Arts Alliance – Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. The challenge was not to recreate the photographs or to focus on nostalgia but rather to challenge artists to tell their own stories of farming and rural life then, now, and tomorrow.

The call for artists resulted in applications from thirty-three artists whose portfolios, professionalism, and supporting statements made the selection process difficult. It was extraordinary to learn the connections many of the artists have to agrarian life and how that history inspires their art. Artists from each of the six states have been researching, experimenting, and engaging in dialogue with photograph lenders since October, 2014.

*I salute them for their sincere questioning of their expectations and for their openness to the process of observing life itself. I would like to thank all of the entrants for their considered time and creativity and look forward to the opening of *Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow* on May 13, 2015.*

ARTISTS



Amber Hansen holds her MFA in drawing and painting from the University of Kansas. Hansen exhibits in film, drawing, and musical performance. Creating a dialogue between her formal education and the ethics of her rural upbringing, Hansen creates socially engaged work and drawings that publicly raise

questions about the ethics of animal welfare and food.



V...Vaughan is a lifelong Texan best known for her exhibition Last Year on the Farm. She followed it with another solo exhibition, Passing America: The Great Plains. "I can't seem to let go of the story of America's passing farms and that way of life."



Laura Terry earned her MFA in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Most recently, a one-person exhibition of her work, "Observations from the 35th Parallel" was featured in the Smith Gallery at the Steven L. Anderson Design Center in Fayetteville, Ark.



Derrick Breidenthal's art is heavily influenced by rural America. His work is in permanent collections including The Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell, Iowa, H&R Block, and MMG Worldwide, Kansas City, Mo, Kansas State University, Manhattan, W Hotel Collection, Detroit, Mich, and Viceroy Snowmass, Aspen, Colo. His studio is in the Crossroads Art District in Kansas City.

Amanda Breitbach grew up on a family farm and ranch in eastern Montana. She is currently a candidate for a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She won a national scholarship to become a fellow with the Joy of Giving Something Foundation/Imagining America. Her research focuses on the complex relationships between people and the land.



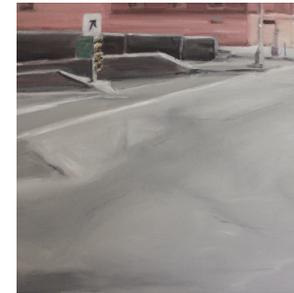
Steve Wilson, photographer, lives in Mission, Kansas. He works in non-silver, alternative, and gravure processes. His works are in The Polaroid Collection, The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Photography collection.



Steven A. Ramsey grew up in Houston, Texas. He earned his MFA, in glass, from Illinois State University. Steven's glass work has been recognized by the Corning Museum of Glass and he is currently the head of the Glass and Sculpture program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



Kristine Hansen-Cain, Omaha, graduated with a BFA from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Her work has been exhibited in Miracle on Farnam and R.A.W., A Process in Omaha and is in several public and private collections.





Ken Crowder is an Oklahoma native and former US Navy photographer who now specializes in commercial advertising, fine art, and creative portraiture. He is adjunct instructor of photography at Northern Oklahoma College. “I became a photographer because I enjoy wandering the world with magic boxes called cameras,” he said.



Keith Graham works predominantly as a printmaker but also makes unique books, paintings and the occasional comic book. A graduate of Carleton College in Minn., he has lived and worked in Seattle, New York, Orcas Island, Wash. and Japan. Keith is pursuing a Masters degree in Printmaking at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Audrey Schmitz is instructor of Ceramics, Sculpture and Art History at Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Okla. and Director of its Eleanor Hays Art Gallery. Audrey said, “I work a lot in clay - it is an incredible art medium that comes directly from the earth. In its soft and plastic state it begs for transformation.



James Jones, Guest Curator is a practicing artist who received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Rutgers University with a foundation in painting, lithography, art education, conceptual, and performance art. He also studied print technology at Chicago Art Institute with Mauricio Lansansky as part of the Tamarind Institute. He has international teaching and artist-in-residence experience in Ulan Bator, Mongolia; Havana, Cuba; Sienna and Florence Italy; the Royal College of Art and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He served as a teacher at the Hun School in Princeton, New Jersey and the University of Kansas, Department of Art.

OUTREACH

Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow is more than an art exhibition. It is a collaborative project. Several outreach events will engage, and inspire participants.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Students in the region are invited to become part of the project through their own creative expression. 4-H and FFA Club members will be invited to tell their story of farming and rural life.

VIDEO

Students, photo lenders, and artists will be participants in the museum’s creation of an original documentary video. Guest Curator James Jones is directing the creation of this film, which will be shared with viewers of the exhibition. The museum thanks Butler County Area Foundation Fund for providing a grant to begin creation of this important film.

SPEAKERS

Humanities Nebraska speakers and others among our community will present music and literary works that help us learn about the Dust Bowl era, the pioneer spirit, and the future of the Great Plains.



TOMORROW Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art has a vision for making David City a destination for experiencing great art. Expanded facilities are part of this vision. Please ask us how you can become part of the museum’s future.



**SUPPORT FOR
BALLAD OF THE FARM: THEN, NOW, TOMORROW**

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This project is supported in part by an award from Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, Nebraska Arts Council, and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Peter Kiewit Foundation has provided generous support for this project as a key sponsor.

Other sponsors who have pledged support include the following:

- Allen Capital Group, LLC
- Butler County Arts Council
- Butler County Area Foundation Fund
- Holland Foundation
- Moravec Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Bank of the Valley
- Tom Bartek
- Bob and Jeannette Fiala
- Don and Rosalee Stara

We hope you'll join them in becoming part of this project.

***BALLAD OF THE FARM:
THEN, NOW, TOMORROW***

An art exhibit inspired by historic photographs
of farm life from 1900 to mid-1900s

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BONE CREEK
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