

BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART 575 E Street | David City, NE 68632 bonecreek.org

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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. This program is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment

VOLUME II
ISSUE II
2015



BALLAD OF THE FARM

THEN, NOW, TOMORROW

MAY 13 - SEPT 13, 2015
BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

MAY 2015

BALLAD OF THE FARM: THEN, NOW, TOMORROW

On May 13, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art opens its latest exhibition, **Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow (Ballad)**.

May 23 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm the museum hosts an opening reception.

The humanities are how we explore who we are collectively, and individually, and what it means to be human through reading, learning, thinking, questioning, and discussing. It is the museum's goal to encourage this kind of investigation through *Ballad*. When viewing the exhibition, the viewer is encouraged to: investigate how artists were inspired to create new works of art; examine what farm families valued; reflect on how farming and rural life has changed; and imagine the future of farming and rural life.

Guest Curator James Jones said, "The creation of *Ballad* is a collaborative process of discovery. Although the visible result is an art exhibition, the purpose of the project is the process itself - discussion both formally and informally among artists and photograph lenders, young people with their parents and Depression-era ancestors, viewers and artists, humanities scholars and educators."

The museum is grateful to more than 42 families nationwide who loaned more than three hundred historic farm photographs. These photographs have provided inspiration for eleven artists to create new works of art for *Ballad*. The artists' goal was not to focus on

nostalgia but rather to tell their stories of farming and rural life now and tomorrow.

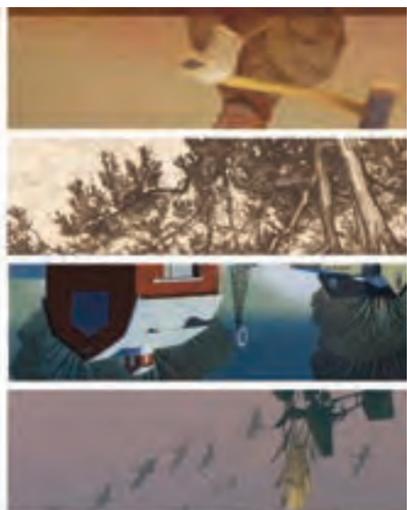
Sponsored in part by the Butler County Area Foundation Fund the museum is

creating a documentary video which features the artists, documents the artistic process and the stories of photo lenders.



Ballad was inspired by the idea that Bone Creek Museum belongs to everyone. Outreach events will make residents of the

surrounding region partners in the project. Through *Ballad*, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art aims to fulfill its mission of connecting people to the land through art.



BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agrarian Art
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II
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IMAGES

Center: Women at corn picking bee, Butler Co, circa 1949, courtesy of Donna Kuhnel
Left: Guest Curator James Jones
Center: Amber Hansen sketching
Right: Allen Covault, Bone Creek co-founder interviewed for video



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13 *Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now,*
MAY *Tomorrow on display*

23 *1:00 – 3:00 pm Opening reception*
MAY *Ballad of the Farm*

30 *6:00 pm - Kathryn Benzel and Mike*
JUN *Adams at Hruska Memorial Library*

21 *Ballad student and 4H displays at Butler*
JUL *County Fair through July 26*

29 *Summer Art Day Camps, Butler County*
JUL *Arts Council through July 31*

Museum Hours

Wed - Sat 10 am-4 pm
Thu 10 am -4 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm
Sunday 1 pm-4 pm
Appointments and tours available
Free admission
575 E Street | David City, NE 68632
402.367.4488
www.bonecreek.org

Message from the Director

Building an ambitious project like *Ballad* requires many people to get their hands dirty and work long hours. I am honored that many people have joined to bring *Ballad* to fruition. Thank you to all of you who have supported the project with your time, effort, and funding. Special thanks to our eleven artists and Guest Curator James Jones.



Bob and Laura Kobza, Kobza Ag and Home; Bank of The Valley; Tom Bartek; Bob and Janette Fiala; Tim and; Patty Hilger; Jim and Alice Kobza; Hank and Bonnie Kobza; Dan Sanley; Bernadine Arena; Don and Rosalee Stara. **In-kind contributors:** Fred and Deb Kobza; Hilger Construction and Insulation; and JoLynn Ratzlaff, Cobblestone Inn and Suites, Schuyler, NE

I look forward to seeing the seeds we have planted come to fruition. - Carol Kobza, Director

YOUNG PARTNERS

Students in ten area schools were invited by Amy Tomasevicz, retired art teacher and former Bone Creek Board member, to participate in *Ballad*. Louise Niemann, office manager of the Nebraska Extension in Butler County has organized the involvement of area 4H club members. Young people are creating art, essays, photography which tell the story of their view of farming and rural life now and tomorrow. These student works will be displayed at the Butler County Fair July 21 – 26 in David City.



Lydia Ockander, 4H member with her artwork

In a rural community everyone's lifestyle revolves around the farm. Hard work, clean air, open spaces, and the promise of a new crop bind generations of farmers. 4-H connects the city and the country. Throughout its 113 year history, the resolve of "making one's best better" remains the cornerstone of 4H.

Ballad has given 4H members their place in the exhibition and the unfolding story of farming and rural life.
-Guest author Louise Niemann

Ballad is an amazing opportunity for community members, museum personnel and artists to meld their visions into one exhibition, unlike any I've seen before. The response to the request for photos from the community was overwhelming. The number of artists applying for selection was another huge indication of interest and support. The education committee encouraged young people to become involved. The cooperation of the educators and schools was essential in this pursuit and is gratefully acknowledged.
-Guest author, Amy Tomasevicz

NEWS
FROM THE FIELD

On June 30 at 6:00 pm Humanities scholars Kathryn Benzel and Mike Adams will perform the music of Woody Guthrie and discuss the Dust Bowl Era at the Hruska Memorial Library in David City.



September 9 Bill Ganzel will provide a presentation at East Butler Public Schools in Brainard, NE. Ganzel is the author of the book "*Dust Bowl Descent*." The book tells some of the stories of people and places that were first photographed during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Students with their parents and grandparents will learn what it was like to live through one of the nation's most desperate periods.

Please watch for more information about other upcoming outreach events on the Bone Creek Museum Facebook page, on the museum's website bonecreek.org, or by calling the museum at 402.367.4488.

Gift of Art

Beth Van Hoesen, *Chinese Cabbage [Cabbage]* (AP II/X), 1960/61, Etching with roulette and drypoint, 9 7/8 x 7 7/8" Gift of E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust



New Board Members

Bone Creek Museum is honored to have four talented new board members: Tim Hilger (Advisory Board); Johnathan Hladik; Barb O'Connell; and Carey Potter. Ask about how you can become part of our team.

Building the Collection

Jules Moigniez, *Big Horn Sheep*, circa 1860, bronze, 14x8x10" Gift of Gerald Wempner



MUSEUM COLLECTION



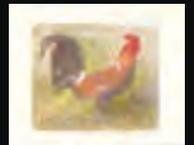
Twenty-six original drawings, etchings, and lithographs by Beth Van Hoesen (1926-2010) were recently

gifted by the E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust. Van Hoesen's work is highly sought after and is in more than 50 museum collections. Bone Creek has received artworks of vegetables and farm animals as exemplified by the image at left and above, Beth Van Hoesen, *Fungi* (21/30), 1981/82, Aquatint, drypoint, and etching with electric engraving, 10 1/2 x 11 in.

A stunning bronze of two big-horn sheep (lower left) circa 1860 by French Animalier's sculptor Jules Moigniez (1835-1894) has been gifted to the museum by Georgia collector Gerald Wempner. The group of sculptors known as the Animaliers raised eyebrows at the salons in France and England because of their reverence for the animal as subject at a time when only the human figure was worthy of such artistic depiction.

Purchase details online at bonecreek.org

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