Volume IV, Issue III, August 2011

Board of Directors:
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Mark L. Moseman
Allen Covault
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Ryan Cameron
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Tim Wollmer

Agrarian - pertaining to lands, fields, or their tenure

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Our Mission is to be the National Center for Preserving, Viewing, and Learning about Exceptional Agrarian Art.

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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

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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

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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!

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. Gaul. Thanks to these generous donors for helping build the museum’s greatest asset.

DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Emerging Artist Gallery in the Legion Building

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.

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 understanding of Nichols’ finest paintings. The companion book published about Nichols’ finest paintings. The companion book published about Nichols’ finest paintings.

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.

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.)
- $30– 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, NE 68632.

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.

Robert Birkel's painting was originally hung in the lobby of the black cat press when they published the book "black cat press" in 1950. After this, the presses were used to publish several other books and it became a staple of the local community. It was later donated to the museum and hung in the main lobby. It is a beautiful piece of art that adds to the overall aesthetic of the exhibition.

The Black Cat Press was a small press located in Waterloo, Iowa. It was founded by Robert Birkel and was known for publishing books on a variety of topics. The presses were designed and built by Birkel himself and were used to print books in a variety of styles. The Black Cat Press was a prominent part of the local community and became a symbol of the artistic spirit of the area.

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