Calendar of Events:

Jean Terry:
Upstate New York Farmstead
On view through Feb. 26, 2012

Don Weller:
Utah Ranch Hands
Feb. 29 - May 13, 2012
Reception: March 3, 2012, 2-4pm

Jeanine Pesek:
Elements from the Earth
March 31 - April 29, 2012
Reception: March 31, 2012, 2-4pm

Masters of Agrarian Art: 1870-2010
On view through October 14, 2012

Become a member by visiting bonecreek.org today!

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

Curator’s Note:

“We can as a rule, only interpret conveniently that which has become part of our awareness, our soul life…. To interpret we must go deep, give of ourselves, all our love, all our energy.”  
– Birger Sandzen (1871-1954)

My best paintings are expressions of what I know and love, so I’m compelled to find and present Bone Creek exhibitors who also know and love their subjects. For Jean Terry it’s her New York farm. For Don Weller it’s his Utah ranch hands. For Jeanine Pesek it’s her agricultural crops. Choosing heartfelt subject matter helps these artists make strong and honest creative interpretations. We’re now privileged to host compelling solo exhibitions by these contemporary agrarian artists.

As for historical art, interpreting best what you know and love is also apparent in our newly installed exhibition, “Masters of Agrarian Art: 1870-2010”. This exhibit includes art from the collection and loaned art from several private collectors. We’re very proud that nearly all master artists represented in this installation are reviewed in scholarly art publications, and have their work included in other American art museums. A common theme of this exceptional Agrarian Art is that it almost always stems from subject matter that is near and dear to each of these artists.

I’ve organized works created by twenty-one masters of Agrarian Art in roughly chronological order. Artworks by ‘fathers of Agrarian Art’, Winslow Homer and Harvey Dunn, as well as by renowned artists such as Birger Sandzen and Grant Wood, are joined by new loaned works painted by several other major American artists. These include Edward Charles Volkert (1871-1935), Eugene Higgins (1874-1958), Jorge Noceda Sanchez (1931-1987), William Vincent (1939-2004), and Wayne Thiebaud (1920- ). Paintings that we’ve previously exhibited are presented along with some historic master works that have never been exhibited in any museum. The style and art movement associated with each of the artists is identified on an introductory wall panel, and on individual labels by each painting. This is an impressive educational presentation of ‘the best of the best’ masters of Agrarian Art over a one hundred and forty year period of art history.

I really miss giving tours of our “Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism” exhibit now relocated to the Georgia Museum of Art. On the bright side, traveling this exhibit to major art museums informs America about this great Nebraska artist and Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art. When you visit the museum, please ask for me. I delight in commenting on our exhibits of exceptional Agrarian Art.

- Mark L. Moseman, Chief Curator

An insert in this issue records financial supporters at the Sudbuster level and above for 2012 to date. Thank you for your generous support.
By: Mark L. Moseman, Chief Curator

Truth resonates in Don Weller’s paintings. At the 2010 American Plains Artists annual juried exhibit, my pick for "One Man Show Award at Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art", was a Weller painting depicting two older ranch hands. Despite their age, they still sat their saddles well. They were visiting as old friends. Only Don saw and expressed this quiet moment of true friendship born of long shared team work as ranch hands. Likewise, Weller’s Bone Creek exhibition portrays contemporary ranch hands of all ages insightfully seen through Don’s eyes. Honesty is evident throughout the exhibition, because the paintings stem from Don Weller’s own life experiences.

Don lives in Utah where he takes care of his five horses and occasionally rides them in cutting horse competitions. He grew up in Washington participating in amateur rodeos. A Fine Arts degree led him to a career as a Los Angeles based illustrator. He produced work for books and magazines, including covers for TIME and TV Guide. When his art was published in a book about cutting horses, he felt compelled to be a full time painter of contemporary Western Art. He pursues his dream in Utah, where he both rides his beloved cutting horses, and makes paintings from the experiences.

Family Tradition (lower right) is a masterful work because there is truth in the image. The painting compares favorably to watercolors of working men done by Winslow Homer. The foreground workers are in sharp contrast and focus, while the background ranch hands fade in a pleasing rhythmic repetition of form. The painting freezes a defining moment showing the heritage of an agrarian family work tradition. The composition is both an abstraction and a reality. Most importantly, this painting and the other works in the exhibition are compelling due to some universal truth in the images. This stems from the fact that Don Weller knows firsthand what he sees in his subjects. These paintings are not only great watercolors; they come from Don’s heart and soul. He says it best himself, “I have been searching my earliest memories, and although I can’t find a time when I believed in Santa Claus, I’m sure I always believed in cowboys.”

Image: Edward Charles Volkert (1871-1935), Breezy Afternoon, 1927, oil, Mark and Carol Moseman Collection Loan.

Highlighted in the Curator’s note, this new educational exhibit, has already attracted visitors and area teachers. Guided tours are being scheduled with schools and community groups. This ‘Masters’ show reveals a glimpse of a body of agrarian art that has been executed in various styles throughout numerous movements of American art history. To schedule a guided tour contact us today.

Local and Emerging Artist Gallery

“Jeanine Pesek: Elements from the Earth” will be on display in the Bone Creek Annex (former Legion building, 551 E St.) March 31 - April 29, 2012, with the opening reception March 31, 2-4pm.

“Elements from the Earth” is a collection of exceptional master’s thesis work by Jeanine Pesek of Gibbon, Nebraska who received her M.A.Ed. at UNK in 2003. Pesek works with metal, blown glass, ceramics, and found objects to create powerful sculpture of the hard work in the evolution of farming. “I hope to convey to others the beauty, strength, and spirit I see in agricultural crops,” says the artist. Only here for a short time, this stunning show is a can’t miss! Images: Top: Today’s Diversity, Artist collection. Bottom: Native Beginnings, Artist collection.