A agrarian Art
NEWSLETTER

Connecting PEOPLE TO THE LAND THROUGH ART

Creative writing there and at Rice University, St. Thomas University and Peru State College. Several of her works have been published in the Plains Song Review (2000, 2002) published annually by the University of Nebraska Press and Nebraska Presence: an Anthology of Poetry (2007). The works on exhibit have recently been published in a book by the same name, The Barada Hills of Nebraska and will be available for sale at the gallery.

Excerpt from Jan’s poem: “Turn Right at the Cow House”

My city friends are amused by directions to this old farm house they insist on knowing the name of this rock road or that and greet with disbelief the fact that there are none.

Watercolor artist John Frederick Lokke and poet Jan Chism Wright have created a collection of artworks displaying a unique region of rolling hills in southeastern Nebraska. The Barada Hills of Nebraska, pronounced Bear’-a-dah, are primarily located in Richardson County and refer to the bluffs along the Missouri River. The area has a unique and colorful history. The hills are named after the founder of the town of Barada, Antoine Barada, the son of a French count and an Omaha Indian Princess. The exploits of Antoine Barada were mythic enough to be recorded by Mari Sandoz.

Presented in Bone Creek’s North 40 Gallery, 27 paintings each with an accompanying poem will share the specific details of this place and resonate with many others’ small town and rural experiences elsewhere in the Great Plains.

John Lokke is an artist, naturalist and amateur herpetologist. A native of Omaha, he received his BFA from University of Nebraska in Omaha. As a naturalist, John usually looks for small and hidden places far from urbanization where he finds amphibians and reptiles. In Jan’s poetry he found a compliment to his own survey of the Barada Hills’ lack of human presence. They both romance the hidden and remote places of the rising and plunging topography. For the past 15 years, he has been working and teaching art in Wichita, KS at City Arts Gallery. His art work has been shown previously in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Jan Wright moved to a farm north of Barada, Nebraska from Houston, Texas in 1997 and has been writing about the area ever since. She says that moving from the city to the country was not just a change of place, but a change of mind. After earning a BBA degree from the University of Houston, she took courses in creative writing there and at Rice University, St. Thomas University and Peru State College. Several of her works have been published in the Plains Song Review (2000, 2002) published annually by the University of Nebraska Press and Nebraska Presence: an Anthology of Poetry (2007). The works on exhibit have recently been published in a book by the same name, The Barada Hills of Nebraska and will be available for sale at the gallery.

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EXHIBITION

AUG 2017
Closing Reception for 150 for Nebraska’s 150th Exhibition

Limited number of original submitted works are still available for purchase from the summer-long exhibition, which is a major fundraiser for Bone Creek. View the online catalog on our website for your chance to purchase one of these fantastic works commemorating Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial, now until July 30th. Join us for a closing reception on Saturday, July 29th from 4 – 6 p.m. Artist Meet & Greet, refreshments, live music and presentation of Public Choice Award are planned.

EVENTS

Cornfest 2017

You may have received a Save the Date postcard for 2017 Cornfest on Sept. 16th. Bone Creek members and attendees of the 2016 Cornfest can begin purchasing tickets on July 29th for a discounted price of $60 each/$110 couple. Tickets go on sale to the general public on August 15th at $65 each/$120 couple. This year’s event will once again be held at District 10 in Linwood, Nebr. A handmade ceramic corn plate is included in the price of each ticket. The 2nd annual Cornfest will include art, poetry, a silent art auction, live music, and great food and beverages. Seating is limited and tickets will sell fast. Contact the museum to purchase tickets.

Partnership with 4-H

On June 19, 2017, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art and Butler County 4-H partnered for the third consecutive year to host an art workshop for local 4-H youth. Seven members, led by BCM gallery and collections manager, Gabrielle Comte, created self-portrait collages using commercial Nebraska tourism printed materials as well as personal family photos and records. The individual collages were assembled to form the shape of Nebraska and displayed at the Butler County Fair as an art piece titled “I am Nebraska. Nebraska is Me.” The artwork was a tribute to the state sesquicentennial anniversary, celebrating the generations of Nebraskans who formed the history of this state and how their efforts built the framework for future generations of Nebraskans.

Summer Art Day Camp

The Butler County Arts Council and Bone Creek Museum will host the annual Summer Art Day Camps on July 27-28, and 31, 2017, from 9am-4pm in the Aquinas High School art room, David City. Art enthusiasts ages 8+ are welcome to participate in guided art activities such as creating stained glass mosaics and hand-built ceramics. Cost is $20 per day or $10 per three-hour session. To register, or for more information please visit http://bonecreek.org/education/.

SURVEY OF THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Bone Creek Museum is bringing back on exhibition its flagship pieces. With so many fabulous contemporary Nebraska artists, it is sometimes difficult to find the place in our small space to keep up the Dale Nichols and other cornerstone artworks that you have come to recognize as signature images of Bone Creek. 2017 has focused on representing Nebraska, in honor of our home state’s landmark anniversary. To pair with two more impressive Nebraska themed exhibitions to close out the year, Bone Creek will be exhibiting some of the museum’s original collection. There will be plenty of opportunity to see one of your longtime favorites that has been in storage for some time. The combination of all of the works together provides for the scope of the museum’s definition and focus on agrarian art.

“In addition to our central artist, Dale Nichols, we are also going to feature the work of his older brother, Floyd,” said Guenther, curator.

DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Dale Nichols’ art recently set a new high price. The painting Mid-Nation Winter sold for $20,000 – a new record price for the artist – at an auction held May 4, 2017 by Shannon’s Fine Art Auctioneers, online and live auction held in Milford, CT. “This stunning price for a classic winter scene, that in my opinion is a bit late to be considered the peak of his career,” said curator Amanda Mobley Guenther. The interest and value in Nichols’ work is a wonderful sign for Bone Creek which touts Nichols as its cornerstone.