

# BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

575 E Street | David City, NE 68632

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Permit No. 3



VOLUME, ISSUE IV  
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NOVEMBER 2018

STEVEN A. RAMSEY:

# IN GLASS

Glass is an exciting medium to consider when thinking about Agrarian Art. The light, the reflection, the form and message can take on multiple meanings and greater depth. "In Glass" is the result of several ideas that arose during Ramsey's conceptual development for pieces that were a part of Bone Creek Museum's *Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now and Tomorrow* exhibition in 2015. Steven said, "These thoughts became intriguing options to explore. It's necessary for an artist to see his ideas manifest in actual pieces to critically analyze the success of those ideas."

The show is composed of two large ideas. The more formal and abstract idea is about the exploration of the agrarian landscape in cast glass forms. "Organic and inorganic pattern and texture as represented by plowed fields, the natural landscape and intervening elements that delineate boundaries are explored with a very special material that can expand the visual textures beyond the physical limits of form," said Ramsey. There is a duality of seeing the shapes for themselves but also an expanded form as the shadow and transparency of glass creates a larger optical form.

The second idea that Ramsey has been thinking about for several years is a more personal reaction to what agrarian means. A life on the land often revolves around food production and preservation and memories of the people who do that work. For him, his late mother was the center of food preservation to sustain the family. Though not always

exclusively "women's work" so often it is the women who create a sense of warmth within the home through cooking. Ramsey has fond memories of his mother canning food and making preserves, the last in his generation to lead in this endeavor on their family farm. An interactive sculpture called "Preserve" is made of a wall of mirrored canning jars. "The mirror effect on the jars is a reflection of everything that has gone before you," said Ramsey. Visitors are invited to write a memory or feeling about preserving food or the people in their lives associated with these tasks and put it in a jar.

With family origins from Blair, Nebraska, Steven A. Ramsey attended the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, Ohio where he earned his BFA in glass. He continued his education earning his MFA in glass from Illinois State University. Steven taught for ten years at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia before joining the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where he is currently Assistant Professor of Glass and Sculpture.

## IMAGES

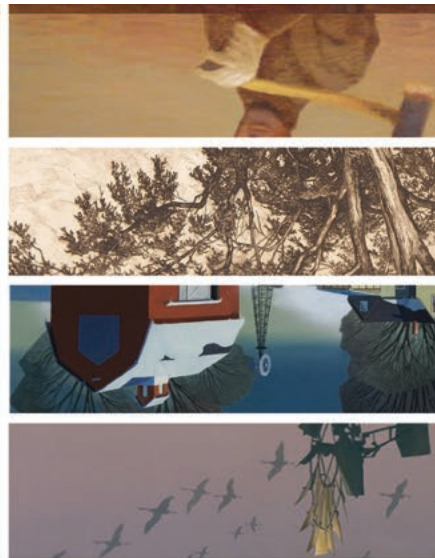
1. Steven A. Ramsey, "Pivot"
2. Steven A. Ramsey, "Windbreak"
3. Steven A. Ramsey, "Fields Edge"
4. Steven A. Ramsey, "Harvest Moon"

All works are Optical Lead Crystal – cast, ground and polished. Images courtesy of the artist.

bonecreek.org

PEOPLE TO THE LAND THROUGH ART

# CONNECTING



NOV  
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Agriarian Art  
NEWSLETTER

BONE CREEK  
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

# CALENDAR -of- EVENTS

- 09** NOV **Water/Ways Exhibition**  
Closes Nov. 9, 2018
- 14** NOV **Ten Year Anniversary Retrospective**  
Nov. 14, 2018- March 31, 2019
- 16** NOV **Steven Ramsey: In Glass**  
Nov. 16, 2018 – Feb. 24, 2019
- 10** DEC **Volunteer Christmas Party**  
December 10, 2-4pm
- 16** JAN **Steven Ramsey Guest Speaker**  
January 16, 2019, 12pm  
David City Hruska Memorial Public Library

## Museum Hours

Wed, Fri, Sat 10am-4pm  
Thursday 10am-8pm  
Sunday 1pm-4pm

Appointments and tours available

FREE admission

402.367.4488  
www.bonecreek.org

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MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

575 E St., David City, NE 68632

# NEWS & EVENTS

## DOWNTOWN CONSTRUCTION

Road construction continues around the downtown David City square to replace the streets and sidewalks. Crews have reached 'E' Street and the museum is surrounded by road closures. There is parking behind the museum through an alley, which if open, has access points on all sides of the block. We suggest if you are coming from out of town, please call the museum, 402-367-4488, to get the most up to date report on where to park.

## WATER/WAYS

Bone Creek Museum was honored to be one of the hosts of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street exhibition. There were some tremendous educational benefits to the project. However, it was an undertaking to mount an exhibition of this scale. The large crates were too big to be permanently stored in house. This was yet another signal to the Board of Directors that efforts toward a larger museum are worthy of pursuit.

## STEVEN RAMSEY to SPEAK at LIBRARY

Current exhibiting artist Steven Ramsey will be the guest speaker at the monthly Food for Thought program, January 16, 2019 at the David City Hruska Memorial Public Library. The program begins at noon and lunch is provided. To attend you must reserve your seat before the date by calling the library at 402-367-3100.



Gabrielle Comte with some of the Water/Ways crates.

## CALL for LOCAL POTTERS

Pottery is made of clay that is literally "of the land." We are looking for local potters to join University of Nebraska-Lincoln MFA Alumni Emily Reason, Normandy Alden, and Autumn Cipala in a Pottery Show and Sale this spring. The sale will take place at the museum as well as online at bonecreek.org. Beginning on January 2, 2019 artists will be able to submit one or two original pieces of pottery for consideration. For more details about eligibility and the submission form visit the Upcoming Exhibitions page at bonecreek.org.



Sample works by:  
1. Normandy Alden  
2. Autumn Cipala  
3. Emily Reason

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

Explore an exhibition that reflects on the museum's 10-year history and invites visitors to interact and respond to prompts about what Agrarian Art might be like in the next 10 years. The birthday party held in July at the Butler County Events Center included displays of some of our accomplishments and exhibitions since opening in 2008. Anna Nolan and Allen Covault shared a wonderful synopsis of all that has taken place as the museum has grown. This summary can still be read on the Events page at bonecreek.org. Approximately 50 exhibitions have been mounted in 10 years, most of which were only seen at the museum, instead of a traveling museum circuit. Bone Creek is creating a legacy of spotlighting artists that have meaningful things to say about the land, past and present.

A milestone anniversary is a great opportunity to reflect on our past. While we won't be able to show an example from every exhibition, this exhibition will attempt to hit some of the high points and bring out some of the master works.

Anniversaries are also a spring board to look ahead. This exhibition invites visitors and patrons to respond to several prompts asking directly what they would like to see in the future at Bone Creek Museum. Exhibitions have ranged from historic themes of past farming techniques to contemporary, and sometimes controversial, agricultural and natural resources issues. While decisions about which artists and themes the museum will present will remain the exclusive decision of Bone Creek staff and directors, it is in the museum's interests to present programs and topics that are relevant and important to its audience. We'd like to know what you think.

Exhibitions are not all we do at Bone Creek Museum, so we'll also reflect and look forward to what else is meaningful to our community: asking once again for a public poll about events, educational programs, classes, workshops, "open-late" nights and other ways that we can serve as a major arts and cultural resource in our area.

## PREVIEW OF 2019

### Pottery Show & Sale

FEBRUARY 27-APRIL 28, 2019



Local potters will join three University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumni to sell their utilitarian wares made from the clay of the earth in the spring Pottery Show and Sale.

### Birger Sandzen: Land of Color

MAY 3-JULY 28, 2019



See the broad brush strokes of Swedish impressionist Birger Sandzen (1871- 1954) with a selection of original paintings on loan from the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas.

### Wempner Collection of Agrarian Art

SUMMER 2019



See a new collection of American and European paintings and sculpture gifted to the museum from Gerald Wempner.

### Braceros: Melding History & Art

AUGUST 1-NOVEMBER 17, 2019



Sculpture artist Diana LeMarbe and painter Jeri Desrochers have teamed up to depict an often overlooked period of immigrant history under the Braceros Labor Contract from Mexico (1942-1964).

### Ernie Ochsner Retrospective

NOVEMBER 22-FEBRUARY 16, 2020



Ernie Ochsner has been painting the vivid green fields around Aurora, Nebr. for decades as he has found constant inspiration and renewal from the change of life's seasons.



## DALE NICHOLS CORNER



Dale Nichols, "Journey's End", 1965, Sold at Sotheby's Auction for \$106,250.

During the "Worthy Rivals" exhibition the museum hosted a small rivalry competition of its own with jars for visitors to vote for whose art they liked better. Some visitors dropped a coin in each jar, unable to decide. The affection of our audience for Nichols has been clear for a long time. And the American market in general has been seeking his out his traditional scenes. Even those that are on the fringe of the classic red barn winter scene are beating auction estimates, such as "Journey's End." But Terence Duren was the clear winner in our contest with about one third more votes than Nichols.

**WORTHY RIVALS** \$49.99



Order online or contact the museum to purchase

bonecreek.org