

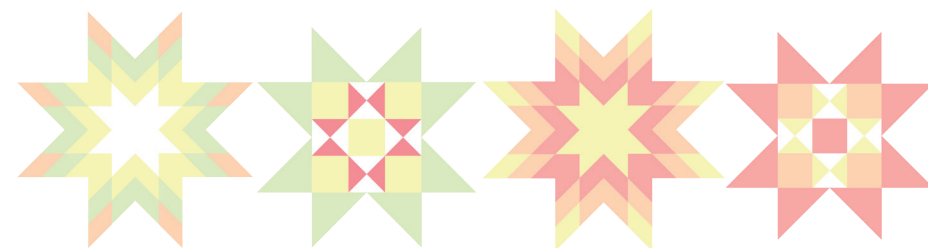
BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

575 E Street | David City, NE 68632

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Landscape and Community: Local Quilts

Quilts are artistic works that are historically and intrinsically tied to the land, as people are tied to the land. This exhibition features pieces by Butler County quilters and the International Quilt Study Center and Museum at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The aim is to celebrate landscape and community by connecting with local quilters, celebrating their talents, and examining the artistic elements of quilting while creating an awareness of our museum to an expanded audience.

Local Quilts

One of the most pervasive influences in the lives of nineteenth-century women was the dominance of gardening and floriculture. Women cultivated flower gardens to demonstrate their homemaking skills and to benefit from the genteel exercise gardening provided. They studied botany to fill their leisure time with productive activity and to understand the spirituality of nature.

The growing American middle class believed the responsibility for the family's moral, spiritual, and educational growth lay within the woman's realm. Women were taught that one way they could safeguard their family's well-being was by surrounding them with beautiful things. And in nineteenth-century America, a motif felt to be inherently beautiful was anything floral.

As colorful cotton fabrics became readily available in the U.S. by the 1840s, women could indulge in the making of appliqué quilts like those once afforded only by women of means. They cut out shapes from plain and small-scale prints, and layered the pieces onto white backgrounds, creating quilt blocks and borders full of fanciful rose-covered wreaths, pots of flowers, graceful vines, and designs of feathers, berries, and birds.

Communities have history and are continually changing through time. Quilts are representations commemorating specific times and places within an evolving society. Quilts bring people together. With the contribution of locally handmade quilts and historic quilts from the Quilt Museum, we can celebrate our own community and heritage within the broader tradition of quilting. "Landscape and Community" is on view Sept. 2-Nov. 14, 2021.



Commenting on the development of quilting traditions among middle class women, International Quilt Study Center and Museum has summarized these themes as follows:

IMAGES

Left: "Lily", Quilt maker unknown, circa 1850, Collection of the International Quilt Study Center and Museum. Top right: Paper pieced quilt by Lanette Bathen. Lower Right: Summer Art Day Camps.

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On Friday, July 30, Bone Creek collections manager, Gabrielle Comte, joined a crew of talented art instructors teaching sessions for Butler County Arts Council's annual Summer Art Day Camps. For part of her session, participants looked at various quilt patterns and created their own quilt-inspired collage using magazine clippings and other reclaimed materials.



AUGUST 2021

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
BONE CREEK

Join the nation's only exclusively agrarian art museum and Dale Nichols research center to support our mission of connecting people to the land through art!
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO THE LAND THROUGH ART

Agriartian Art
NEWSLETTER

XIV
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CALENDAR -of-EVENTS

29 Matt Steinhausen:
The Least Interesting Place
AUG Thru Aug. 29, 2021

30 Closed for Installation
AUG Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2021

02 Landscape and Community:
Local Quilts
SEP Sept. 2 - Nov. 14, 2021

23 Timna Tarr: Virtual Trunk Show
OCT October 23, 2021

19 Debra Joy Groesser:
Yes, This Is Nebraska
NOV Nov. 19, 2021 – March 13, 2022

Museum Hours

Wednesday- Saturday:
10AM-4PM

Thursday:
10AM-6PM

Sunday:
1PM-4PM

Monday, Tuesday, Major Holidays:
Closed

Appointments and tours available

FREE admission

402.367.4488
www.bonecreek.org

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Matt Steinhausen Closing- The author will be present to sign books on the closing day of his exhibition, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021. Sunday museum hours are 1-4pm. Sold artworks may be collected immediately after 4pm that day as well.



VIRTUAL
TRUNK SHOW
with Timna Tarr



Quilt Trunk Show- Award-winning quilter Timna Tarr will present a lecture “Repeating Patterns” on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, about her quilting journey and discuss some comparisons of family quilts that inspired her and modern renditions of those patterns. More information about how to participate will be coming soon.



Summer Outreach- Bone Creek staff and volunteers kept busy this summer collaborating with Butler County Extension and 4-H. Gabrielle Comte led an art workshop in June inspired by the museum’s upcoming quilt exhibition in which participants used colorful squares of paper folded into geometric shapes to build sculptural “quilt blocks”. Examples were displayed at the Butler County Fair. In mid-July, 4-H members from the Always Busy Clovers club helped complete the Marvin Gardens native prairie landscape behind the museum by identifying species and placing markers near each plant.

A message from the Board President:

In the near future, Bone Creek will embark on a capital campaign initiative to expand the space we call home. The only museum in North America devoted solely to Agrarian Art, our collection fills the gallery and the basement vault, overflowing into an off-site storage space. Even so, the museum has received national and international notice as an outstanding repository for Agrarian Art. We draw guests from all 50 states. Visitors from at least 7 foreign countries have heard about us and made a point to visit. We engage all ages in hands-on educational programs; we host tours and seminars for a wide range of groups from across Nebraska. We look forward to inviting you on this expansion journey soon!
-Ruth Thoendel

UPCOMING PROJECT Farm Island Anthology

Penny Niemi’s “Farm Island Anthology,” set against the backdrop of rural America, challenges a new generation to perpetuate the legacy of rugged, aging farmers who have passionately loved, worked, and valued the land. It depicts an agrarian lifestyle that embodies simplicity and complexity in the same moment.

Inspired by years of all-season drives across southern Minnesota to visit family, “Farm Island Anthology” spotlights a fast-disappearing bedrock of American history and culture. It celebrates the individual spirit of those melting-pot builders of small farms and American agriculture. It is a call to action for youthful men and women all across the country to envision and implement innovative farming methods that will feed our future.

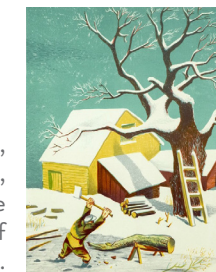
Bone Creek will partner with the Tubac Art Center to mount an exhibition of new artworks inspired by the poetry. A call for artists will be released in 2022. In advance of the 2023 project, we will publish one poem in each of the next six newsletters. Below is the first poem in the series.

Farm Islands
Atolls riding seas of blackened earth,
farm islands dot the flat plain sky to sky,
their shimmering silo sentinels securing rocky banks,
their woody canopies sheltering against both sun and storm.
Here the cottonwood-lined reefs cut distant shores,
and pebbled channels reach to blue horizons,
sole entry for friends, for news, for life.
On farm islands, safe harbors persevere,
carried on the whispers
and the wisdom of sturdy islanders who have gone before.



DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Dale Nichols’ regionalism is often one of leisure or festivities. Happy family moments are repeated themes in his paintings. For example, numerous scenes feature a sleigh bringing home the Christmas tree and the family dog. However, sometimes Nichols would catch the family in action with a woman hanging out the laundry, or as in “The Cold Wave” (1936), chopping firewood. Other regionalist artists more commonly depicted the working man, such as William Gropper’s “Woodcutter” (1960).



William Gropper,
Woodcutter, 1960,
lithograph, Private
Collection, Courtesy of
Lincoln Art Company.



Dale Nichols, *The Cold Wave*, 1936, gouache,
Collection of The Art Institute of Chicago.

Thank you to the many contributors to the Len Sloup Memorial. Len and his wife, Sue Quambusch, were members and regular attendees at Bone Creek events, and Sue intends to continue this support. We appreciate the opportunity to preserve his memory with these gifts.

In Memory

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