

**BONE CREEK**  
 MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART  
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NOVEMBER 2019

bonecreek.org



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**BONE CREEK**  
 MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agriarian Art  
 NEWSLETTER

Ernest Ochsner has spent a lifetime devoted to painting the rural landscapes of Nebraska. Born in South Dakota in 1944, Ernie wanted to be an artist since he was four years old. “I have worked towards that goal, in a singular fashion, save a few minor detours along the way,” wrote Ernie. He spent his childhood summers outdoors along the School Creek and the Platte and Blue River bottoms. This mix of natural and agricultural environment left a deep impression on him. He is continually drawn back to rivers both for renewal and inspiration. Since 1974, Ernie and his wife, Lynda, have lived in downtown Aurora, Nebraska.

Remarkably, Ochsner is a self-taught artist. He defends his solitary training, “believing in my own muse rather than that of others.” This retrospective exhibition includes his earlier work with abstraction. He has also found deep pleasure and meaning in painting figurative work and portraits. Now, he most often paints in his studio with photos as his guide, occasionally juxtaposing pieces of several photos to create his compositions.

“My paintings and photographs have their roots in my search for meaning and purpose; it is a spiritual quest. The land, sky and agricultural forms are metaphors, archetypes extending back to the dawn of civilization, woven through the religions, stories, and songs that spring from them.



The rigid geometry of the agricultural lands and the seeming chaos of the natural seem at odds, but beneath the surface there is the harmony of cycles and seasons, with earth, air and water relinquishing nourishment to hungry roots and leaves.

Here I find a never-ending wellspring of inspiration, spiritual sustenance and transcendent beauty,” writes Ochsner.

As I have seen Ochsner’s work over the years I have always thought he used very powerful greens. When I asked him about that, he gave an unsurprised response but confessed that he is color blind and greens are particularly difficult to decipher. I recall seeing a painting of a field of soybeans that always stuck with me. The greens were so vivid, I thought that must not be true to life, but one summer horseback riding north of David City I saw a soybean field that was just as green as the Ochsner painting of which I had been skeptical.

I hope that you have a chance to see this body of paintings representing decades of work by a truly genuine artist with a keen eye, turning the ordinary into something extraordinary.

-Amanda Mobley Guenther, curator

**IMAGES**

Ernie Ochsner, *Boone County Autumn*, 24x30”  
 Ernie Ochsner, *Bales*, 30x30”

# CALENDAR -of- EVENTS

**31**  
OCT **Halloween at the Museum**  
Thursday, Oct. 31, 4-8pm

**17**  
NOV **Braceros: Melding History and Art**  
Now through Nov. 17, 2019

**20**  
NOV **Gallery closed for installation**  
Nov. 20 and 21, 2019

**22**  
NOV **Ernie Ochsner Retrospective**  
Nov. 22, 2019- Feb. 16, 2020  
Opening reception -  
Nov. 22, 5-7pm

**10**  
DEC **Volunteer Christmas Party**  
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2-4pm

## 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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575 E St., David City, NE 68632

# NEWS & EVENTS

## CURATOR UPDATE

Many of you know that I have been a steady presence at the museum since shortly after its opening in 2008. I had just graduated from UNL and was working at the Great Plains Art Museum when I attended one of the first exhibitions hosted at Bone Creek. I began working full time as Assistant Curator at the museum. In the last eleven years, I have been pleased to be able to keep working and growing at Bone Creek even as my needs and availability changed, with getting married, moving to Lincoln, earning a graduate degree and having children. My passion for this niche market of Agrarian Art has become so strong that other opportunities to move over the years to a bigger museum have not had an appeal. In keeping with agrarian tradition and culture, family has always been a strong draw for me. For years I have wanted to relocate to my hometown area in Northern California and that time has finally come. As the museum board of directors assesses what is best for the museum's future growth, I will continue to serve as curator remotely. It is important for me to share and explain that I will miss seeing you at the next reception or event. Rural communities and visual arts will continue to shine with the work of Bone Creek Museum.



Sincerely,  
Amanda

## CORNFEST 2019

A picture is worth a thousand words to recap the wonderful event held in September. Guests enjoyed a unique event packed with highlights including live music by Oscar Rios Pohirieth, a dance performance by Orgullo Latino, poetry and historical conversations with David Catalán, dinner by Taqueria Hernandez, carriage rides around the park and a silent auction. Each year Cornfest has had its own flavor and one of a kind offerings and we plan to continue this tradition in future years.

(Top) Oscar Rios Pohirieth  
(Middle) Carriage Rides  
(Bottom) Orgullo dancers



## MPMA AWARD

Anna Nolan (Covault) and Allen Covault accepted another publication design award from the Mountain-Plains Museums Association at its annual conference in Albuquerque this September. Bone Creek Museum was recognized for the publication design of the 2018 book *Worthy Rivals: Dale Nichols and Terence Duren*. We are very fortunate to regularly work with Ashley Cameron, who designed the book, written by Cole Sartore and printed by Innerworkings, Inc.



## PREVIEW of 2020

Four exciting new exhibitions unique to Bone Creek Museum are scheduled for 2020, in addition to exhibitions of the growing permanent collection.

### J. BREWER: GARDEN SYMPHONIES FEB 19 - APRIL 19, 2020

For more than a decade J. Brewer has been quietly creating a massive collection of large-scale floral paintings from his home and studio near Kearney, Nebraska. Bone Creek is proud to exhibit these formerly hidden gems.



Zinnias No. 35

### KARL KUERNER: THE ART SPIRIT IN AGRARIAN ART APRIL 22 - JULY 26, 2020

Karl Kuerner brings to Bone Creek a view into the well-known Kuerner family farm in the Brandywine Valley of Pennsylvania in a reserved style that emphasizes the quiet moments of farm life.



First Cutting

### 2020 VISION: NEBRASKA'S TOP 20 AUG 1 - NOV 15, 2020

One artwork each by 20 of the best living and working agrarian artists in the state will be a long-lasting testament to the talent we have in Nebraska. Anne Burkholder (image below) is one of the 20 featured artists.



Horizon 1117 - Spring Wheat Near Brainard

### LOUISE BEREUTER: GRAIN ELEVATORS NOV 18, 2020 - MARCH 2021 TBD

Local area grain elevators, some of which are no longer standing, are the focus of this collection by Louise Bereuter.



Grain Elevator



## DALE NICHOLS CORNER

It feels so good to have a change of season. In this spirit we will be transitioning the permanent collection gallery to feature Nichols' Four Seasons paintings (Autumn painting pictured below) and other classics from the collection.



Dale Nichols, *Ghosts of Halloween*, 30x40"

**WORTHY RIVALS** \$49.99 +tax

AWARD WINNER 2019



Order online or contact the museum to purchase

bonecreek.org