Twenty of the best of Nebraska’s living and working agrarian artists have been selected for an exhibition. Each artist has submitted one piece to be an exceptional example of their signature style. Agrarian art can be as broad and varied as the land itself. Webster defines agrarian as “pertaining to lands, fields, and their tenure.” In this exhibition, you will see numerous interpretations of the landscape, as well as some of its more captivating inhabitants.

In search of the most accomplished contemporary artists museum staff assembled a list of more than 60 artists. Even a list of that many was fairly easily garnered thus making it all the more difficult to narrow it down. There are currently a great many more talented artists in the state making art. The criteria for this exhibition were to find genuinely agrarian artists currently living and actively working at their craft.

We feel we have examples from the most professional and accomplished in the state. Many have lengthy resumes of gallery representation, professional associations, museum exhibitions, and juried accolades. Many also have their own websites, so you can learn more about them by searching the artist’s name online. The Current Exhibitions tab at bonecreek.org features all the artworks in the show.

“I’m thankful we have not had to delay this exhibition. There are so many fine artists that we are eager to show off,” said curator Guenther. Group exhibitions over the past few years have been very popular at Bone Creek Museum. Visitors have a chance to see multiple perspectives and styles in one show. In this case, you can see the best of the best.

### Participating Artists

- Kristine Allphin
- Michael Bristol
- Anne Burkholder
- David Dorsey
- Michael Farrell
- Michael Forsberg
- Debra Joy Groesser
- Wendy Hall
- Cliff Hollestelle
- Hal Holoun
- Jennifer Homan
- Keith Jacobshagen
- Doug Johnson
- Jenny Kruger
- Deborah Murphy
- Ernest Ochsner
- Martha Pettigrew
- Susan Puelz
- Patti Scarborough
- John Spence

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NEWS & EVENTS

RECEPTION FOR 20/20 VISION

Given the health concerns of gathering in large groups at this time, the Events Committee has decided to postpone the reception to celebrate the opening of the 20/20 Vision exhibition. We are optimistic about holding an event later.

REOPENING UPDATE

After closing to the public for nearly three months, the museum finally reopened for visitation on June 3, 2020. With the implementation of temporary safety regulations and limited business hours, guests were able to enjoy "J. Brewer: Garden Symphonies" and "Karl Kuerner: The Art Spirit in Agrarian Art," exhibitions previously interrupted by the coronavirus closure. Regulations including social distancing, a building capacity limit of ten people or fewer, and wearing masks while inside the museum will continue through the remainder of the summer and autumn. We sincerely appreciate the willingness of all visitors to follow our new guidelines and ask that everyone continue their compliance for the safety of all staff, volunteers, and visitors.

NEBRASKA PASSPORT PROGRAM

I f any visitation to the museum was lost during our coronavirus closure, it was recuperated in full following the opening of the Nebraska Passport Program on June 1. The program, created in 2009 to encourage in-state tourism, is especially important this year with COVID-19 restricting travel and limiting local revenue. Since our reopening, over 433 visitors from the program have discovered our location and experienced our agrarian mission, and we expect more as the program continues through October 31. For information on how to join the Nebraska Passport Program, see nebraskapassport.com or ask a local Passport stop for a booklet.

ART AT HOME

The Bone Creek Art at Home project packet, titled "A Field of Flowers," was made available earlier this month for young people looking to keep art in their summer schedules. The project, inspired by current exhibition "Garden Symphonies" and Indian artist Amtita Dand, teaches ways to suggest distance in a landscape painting by varying subjects’ sizes and utilizing warm and cool colors. Upon completion of the project, the resulting painting is energetic, colorful and attractive regardless of the age or level of experience of the artist. Art kits for this project, free of charge with all supplies included, are still available and can be reserved by calling the museum at 402-367-4488.

IN THE COLLECTION

Karl Kuerner, "Work Gloves", 1994, Acrylic on Panel, 14.25x27.5"

"Work Gloves", a painting by Karl J. Kuerner stays at the museum even after the exhibition has ended thanks to the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Marvin. The museum is proud to represent Kuerner in the permanent collection with this piece. The image is of Karl’s late wife, Louise, who would have described herself as more of a city girl but became enthralled with all aspects of farming. Rarely did she pose for a painting. Kuerner got the idea for the piece watching her muck stalls on weekends and talked her into holding still long enough for him to capture the moment.

PHOTOS WANTED

The museum is looking for amateur and professional photographers to share visual documentation of the historic 2019 flooding that impacted much of Eastern Nebraska. Images of the flooding and its impact are planned to be part of an exhibition early next year. Local documentation of the natural disaster will be featured alongside an exhibition entitled "A River Runs Through It" assembled by the Museum of Nebraska Art. This exhibition explores the artistry inspired by the Platte River – from the sounds and sights of the land, flora, and fauna that surround, inhabit, and visit it to the sky that stretches far above.

From the Field

KESLAR

Some of the most exciting occasions in our role as the center for Dale Nichols research are when previously hidden artworks or ephemera come to our attention and contribute new detail to the narrative of the artist’s life. One such instance arose this spring when two illustrated letters penned by Nichols were generously donated to the permanent collection by the family of the letters’ recipient, Harry J. Higdon, Jr. Higdon, known to many as ‘Hig,’ was the editor of the "Phoenix Flame", a Chicago-based monthly publication which employed Nichols as an illustrator during the 1930’s and again in the 1950’s. In his letters to Hig, written in his signature calligraphy, Nichols reminisced about his year-long adventure in Mexico in 1949 and teased the editor with samples of a new illustration style for books. Bone Creek is ecstatic to add these unique items to the collection and to highlight an important relationship in the complex life of this prolific artist.

SHOP

KUERNER EXHIBITION CATALOG

$1200

Deadline: Jan 1, 2020

Please share your images and information at artnfo@bonecreek.org