

BONE CREEK
 MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
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XVI
 VOLUME, ISSUE I

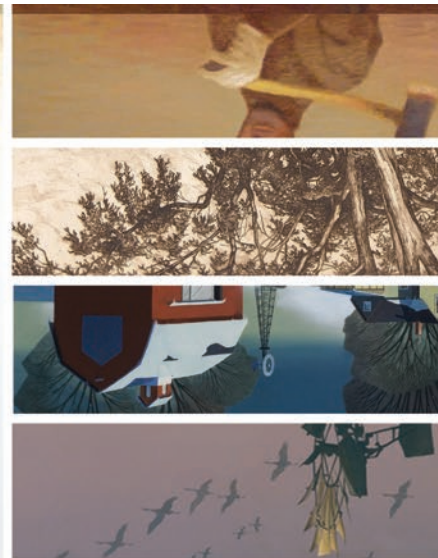
MARCH 24 – JULY 9, 2023

FARM ISLAND
 — ANTHOLOGY —

MARCH 2023

EIN 20-8479913

bonecreek.org



Jerene Kruse, *Heartland Abundance*, hand built clay, 1.5x11.75"

The “Farm Island Anthology”, a group of 7 poems by freelance writer and poet Penny Niemi, will be presented alongside art inspired by the written word. The poetry tells the story of the individual spirit of a melting pot of builders of small farms and American agriculture.

Niemi describes unique characters who live on “islands” of rural landscapes. The farm islands represent home. The lifestyle she describes is rooted in self-reliance and perseverance. The islanders are surrounded by wilderness and solitude, past and present. They strive to attain “the promise” that the land yields—in its bounty and sweetness—for themselves and future generations.

For the poet, the main characters: the island man and woman, the dog, the barn, the islands and the promise are all real, drawn from her husband’s Finnish aunts and uncles and their homesteaded dairy farms in Upper Michigan. For the artists, the poetry has evoked thoughts and memories of real people and places as well. For the patrons, we simultaneously imagine the people she describes and form our own associations.

Penny Niemi summarizes the overarching theme as this, “The Farm Island story is America’s story. Farm Islands are the bedrock of American culture and values. It’s a story that small town folks already live, as well as one that will connect right-now city dwellers to both the Farm Island generation and to the new, independent pioneers who are slowly claiming their place growing organic crops, sheep/goats/beef, raising poultry and supplying fresh eggs, planting hops and vineyards, and staking their claim on family, non-corporate farms across America.”

In our mission to connect people to the land through art, Bone Creek Museum initiated a national call to artists to create new artwork in response to

the poetry. The poetry is the descriptive centerpiece inspiring the juried art competition.

“What was the response by artists? That is the part you’ll have to come and see!” says curator Amanda Mobley Guenther.

The imagery in this exhibition by 37 artists comes together to begin to express what these “farm islanders” internalize as their identity and way of life. Viewers of this exhibition partake in the experience of a visual presentation combined with the internalization of the poetry.



Amy Tomasevicz, *Invoking the Promise*, alcohol ink, 12x18"

Guest juror Molly Hobson Vaida, owner of the Landmark Gallery in Omaha, will present awards and cash prizes to some exhibitors at a reception on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Please join us from 2:00-4:00pm for presentations of the poetry, artworks and meet some of the participating artists.

The Tubac Arts Center in Tubac, Ariz., has partnered with Bone Creek Museum to issue the same call to artists in their local area. Their exhibition runs April 7-May 23, 2023. This project has been made possible with the additional support of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Cover: Richard Crumb, *Prairie Island*, digital photograph on aluminum, 16x24"

BONE CREEK
 MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

AGRARIAN ART
 NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR -of- EVENTS

- 19** **Bart Walker: Tour the West**
MAR Extended until Mar. 19, 2023
- 20** **Closed for Installation**
MAR Mar. 20-23, 2023
- 24** **Farm Island Anthology**
MAR Mar. 24 – July 9, 2023
- 29** **Farm Island Reception**
APR and Award Ceremony
April 29, 2023, 2-4pm

CURRENT 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

BONE CREEK

MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

575 E St, David City, NE 68632

NEWS & EVENTS

MEET THE NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Connie Perry of David City joined the board in January. She is taking the place of Alice Wood as co-treasurer. Alice will continue to remain involved through the capital campaign. Perry says she is looking forward to applying her 45 years of experience in the financial industry. Most recently she was the manager of Union Bank in David City, Bank of the West and retired as President from Dale Employees Credit Union in Columbus. She also volunteers with the Senior Center and the Butler County Area Foundation Fund. She has family nearby in Seward and enjoys keeping up with the activities of her 11 and 16 year old grandsons. Connie enjoys reading, cycling, pickleball, bowling, hiking, and spending time at the lake. Her new freedom is allowing her the time to travel, and she is looking forward to many new experiences.



Connie Perry

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Word is getting out! Plans for restoring the 1917 Ford Building in David City as the new home for the Bone Creek Museum are well underway. They include a dedicated Dale Nichols gallery, three other large galleries as well as an "emerging artists" showspace, a classroom for messy hands-on art learning, an art exploration center and library, a gift shop, a large and secure climate-controlled vault, solar panels on the roof and an EV charging station out front.



Rendering of the exterior of Ford Building

We will begin the work late spring, starting with repairs and upgrades to the existing exterior bricks and roof.

We've raised about 2/3 of the funds needed for the entire project, but we need your help in this final push to close out the fundraising phase. We are so thankful for all who have donated cash, securities or grain to the campaign. If you have not, would you consider making a campaign donation? And if you have already donated, would you consider an additional donation to make this dream a reality? (New gifts over \$5,000 are eligible for a 40% state tax credit for donors in Nebraska -- you give us \$5000 and we give you back \$2000 on your Nebraska state tax bill.) Checks can be mailed to the museum address on the back of this newsletter.

TRIBUTE BRICKS

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of David City and in continued efforts for its capital campaign, Bone Creek is selling engraved tribute bricks to be used in the renovation of the Ford Building for \$150 each. Each brick will be engraved with two lines of text of your choosing. So, honor a loved one or support a local business and be a permanent part of David City's next 150 years.

**BONE CREEK
MUSEUM IS
15 YEARS OLD!**

Bone Creek Museum and David City are celebrating special anniversaries in 2023. The museum honors 15 years since opening, while the City of David City is celebrating its 150th anniversary of being named County Seat of Butler County. To commemorate this landmark year, a display in the South 80 gallery of the museum will include some local history important to the museum during its 15 years since opening. This new display of history and selections from the permanent collection will open in May 2023.

NEWS

FROM THE FIELD

BART WALKER: TOUR THE WEST

The "Tour the West" exhibition is extended by one week to March 19, 2023. This exhibition was featured in the February issue of Western Art Collector and Walker is listed as an "Artist to Watch" in the April/May issue of Southwest Art Magazine. Walker's paintings are next on display in "The Artful Eye" exhibition at the Christopher Queen Gallery in Duncan Mills, CA.



Bart Walker, *Potato Harvest*, oil on canvas, 14x18", Gift of the Artist.

ON THE ROAD

Bone Creek is lending approximately 20 works from its collection for display in the Education Center of the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice. Exhibition dates for "Imagining the Overland Trails" are set for June 1-Aug. 28, 2023. Bone Creek has partnered with Homestead Monument in the past and is excited about the renewed opportunity to share several new pieces to our collection with the summer tourists to Beatrice. This latest selection of paintings focuses on overland trail imagery from living American artists.



Verne Tossey, *Pioneer Camp*, oil on board, 18x24", Gift of Gerald Wempner.

SCHEDULE YOUR GROUP TOUR

Bone Creek Museum is an excellent location to visit on your next small group excursion. Each year, museum staff provides guided tours for school groups, scout troops, social clubs and family reunions. To schedule a tour for your group, contact the museum at 402-367-4488 or by email at artinfo@bonecreek.org.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
We look forward to seeing you!



DALE NICHOLS CORNER

The realism of the Regionalist movement influenced the next generation of artists, but not how you might think. Well-known abstract impressionists and modern artists, such as Jackson Pollock, were early students of Regionalists. Pollock was a student of Thomas Hart Benton and made representational landscape and figurative paintings before his style evolved into the paint-slinging process he became famous for.

Nichols denounced the move toward modernism. Though his delivery might have sounded abstract with statements like, "In painting, we don't think in terms of things but in terms of shapes governed by light," his result was always representational. He saw modernism as the destruction of discipline in art. Nichols always promoted his three principles of Light, Order, and Love which resulted in representational images of land and figure (with a little injection of psychological forms).



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