

BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
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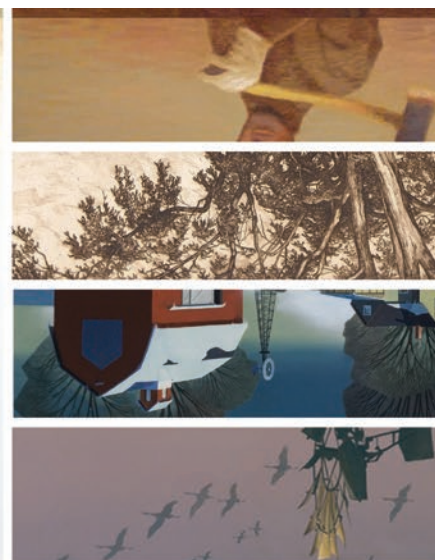
Watercolor artist Judy Thompson is sharing two of her collections this winter at Bone Creek Museum. She was recently interviewed about these projects.

EIN 20-847913

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PEOPLE TO THE LAND THROUGH ART

CONNECTING



BONE CREEK
 MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agriarian Art
 NEWSLETTER

NOV
2023
 XVI
 VOLUME, ISSUE III

We are showing the Homestead Series and Prairie Girl Series. What does it mean for you to work in a series?

Working in a series is an opportunity for me to stretch and grow as an artist. For me, the first step is to get immersed in the landscape and experience it firsthand. This usually involves hiking, sketching, and photographing. Next, I dig into the history and culture of the area by reading and visiting museums and interpretive sites. This is where I discover the unique stories and common threads which lend themselves to artistic expression. I then decide on the specific narratives I want to express through my art. Finally, I challenge myself to creatively interpret these ideas using different approaches and techniques.

It's been more than 10 years since you first created the Homestead Series. How has your original intention and public response to that collection changed over time?

I completed the Homestead Series just before the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Homestead Act by President Abraham Lincoln. I was very fortunate to have my series tour throughout the region at a variety of venues during this historic celebration. Those exhibitions gave me the opportunity to connect with curators and art enthusiasts from around the country. The icing on the cake, however, was visiting folks whose family history is rooted in the homesteading era.

One of the venues during this 150th Anniversary Tour was the Cultural Center in Pierre, South Dakota. This is where the editor of the Pioneer Girl Series saw my art on exhibition. You can imagine my surprise when she called and asked if I would be interested in creating the cover art for Laura Ingalls Wilder's autobiography!

IMAGES

Judy Thompson, *A Good Day's Work*, watercolor, 14x26", Homestead National Monument Collection (cover)
 Judy Thompson, *Prairie Impressions*, watercolor, 14x10", Homestead National Monument Collection (center)

What has been the impact of the Pioneer Girl Series so far? Are the books published?

The Pioneer Girl Series consists of four books published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press and have been a great literary success. The first volume, *Pioneer Girl: the Autobiography of Laura Ingalls Wilder* was a New York Times best seller and has also been published in Japanese. The remaining three books deal with Wilder's journey as an author and her collaboration with her daughter, Rose Lane. All four books are now published, with the latest arriving in bookstores this past spring.



Creating the book covers and working with a publisher were new experiences for me. The art needed to be historically accurate with a design suitable for a book cover. Each book shows a different season with three of the covers taking place on the South Dakota prairies. The fourth, and final book, is a maple sugaring scene from the big woods of Wisconsin.

In what ways do you think watercolor is best suited to your subject and style?

Watercolor is a versatile and expressive medium which allows me to experiment with a variety of techniques. It is also a spontaneous medium which means it is unpredictable at times and seems to have a mind of its own. These qualities both fascinate and challenge me as an artist. There is always something new to learn and each painting encounter is an adventure. I find that watercolor's unpredictable and independent nature is especially suited to interpreting the spirit of the Great Plains.

CALENDAR -of- EVENTS

- 29 OCT** Erin Hanson: Color on the Vine Thru Oct. 29, 2023
- 30 OCT** Closed for Installation Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2023
- 11 NOV** On the Homestead with Judy Thompson Nov. 3, 2023-Mar. 17, 2024 Reception: Nov. 11, 2-4pm
- 18 MAR** Closed for Installation Mar. 18-21, 2024

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

AWARD WINNING PUBLICATIONS

Bone Creek Museum was the sole award winner at this year's Mountain-Plains Museums Association annual conference, receiving the "Excellence in Publications" award for 2023. The museum has received publication awards from its regional museum association several times. This spring Bone Creek Museum produced an exhibition catalog book for The Farm Island Anthology project. The jury also considers other marketing publications produced by the museum as well to give this overall award of excellence. Founding board members Allen Covault and Anna Nolan attended the annual meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas to receive the award.



ART DAY CAMP RECAP

Bone Creek employees concluded Butler County Arts Council's Summer Art Day Camp this year with two creative and messy sessions. In the first session, led by Sarah, participants used Mod Podge to secure layers of colorful fabric strips around a reused plastic container. Once dry, these strips held their position to become eclectic fabric mûché trinket bowls. Gabrielle turned participants loose to experiment with four different painting methods. In one of the students' favorite paintings, they squeezed paint into dots and lines on a paper and used a squeegee to drag the paint down the page leaving behind an attractive pattern. Forks, palette knives, and paint swirls helped decorate other paintings. The freedom to experiment and create with fabric and paint inspired an energetic and imaginative day.



As we approach the start of our renovations, participating in events such as these art camps allows our education team to dream ambitiously about future opportunities in our new museum space!



TRIBUTE BRICKS

Engraved tribute bricks are still available for purchase supporting the renovation of the Ford Building. Each brick will be engraved with two lines of text of your choosing. Bricks this year are priced at \$150 each in honor of David City's 150th anniversary. Order at bonecreek.org/join/giving/

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Are you looking for unique and special gifts this holiday season? The Bone Creek Museum Shop may have what you're looking for. Prints by Impressionist painter Erin Hanson are still available, and Judy Thompson's watercolors have just arrived in the gallery. We have new pottery by local artist Joan Cech. We have a variety of Bone Creek merchandise including greeting cards and card sets, award winning books and catalogs. Collectors Dale Nichols ornaments are still in limited supply. Stop by and shop today in store and online.

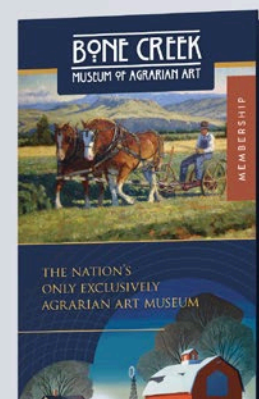


SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

Annual membership provides a great benefit to you and the museum. The vast majority of Bone Creek's annual budget is privately funded. Your support brings quality exhibits to David City, pays staff salaries, and keeps the lights on.

Members at the \$100 level receive access to the North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM) benefits with 1,333 museum partners across North America. By being a Bone Creek member, you receive free admission to other museums. There are eight NARM museums in Nebraska. Narmassociation.org provides helpful search tools to find museums as you travel. Also, www.artgeek.io has a helpful Museum List by State that clearly marks the NARM member institutions.

FOLLOW US



LEVELS & BENEFITS	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000+
Personalized membership card	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-year subscription to newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitations to museum exhibitions and events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reciprocal benefits at 100s of NARM museums nationwide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10% off Bone Creek merchandise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25% off Bone Creek merchandise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dinner recognition in the main gallery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dinner recognition at bonecreek.org	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-time seating tax exemption	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

EXHIBITIONS
Agrarian Art in Art of the Land
Areas of Focus
Regions like Dale Nichols
Local Artists
Museum Collaboration

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Educational programs are a critical way that we engage and foster art appreciation with the youth in our community. Partnerships with local schools, 4-H clubs, scout groups, art clubs, the local library and the Butler County Arts Council serve hundreds of students and patrons each year.

CONNECTING YOUTH



DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Artist Ruth Nichols, niece of Dale Nichols and daughter of Floyd Nichols, passed away July 30, 2023, in David City. Ruth was a founding board member of Bone Creek Museum and played a pivotal role in its early years. In fact, the current exhibition space on E Street was originally purchased to be used as her studio and classroom. Like her father, Ruth was a talented sculptor and is known locally for the many restorations she made to religious artworks. Ruth also taught art lessons for more than 30 years to area students. She will be greatly missed by family, friends, and the Bone Creek community.



Ruth Nichols (rt.) with Uncle Dale Nichols and wife Maria, 1988



Ruth Nichols (rt.) with cousin Bill Sanley (d. 2023) standing next to Sanley Farm by Dale Nichols

SHOP

\$800 +\$3.60 tax/shipping



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT
bonecreek.org