BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
575 E Street | David City, NE 68632

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit ORG
Postage
PAID
David City
Permit No. 3

EIN 20-8479913

bonecreek.org





BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agrarian Art
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIX, ISSUE I
MAR 2026



Kristine Allphin has been thinking about this specific theme—cultivation—since I visited her studio in Hastings in the late summer of 2024. While it is specifically agrarian, the theme was intriguing to her because it also has application to many other aspects of life. We cultivate growth in our families and businesses as well as our acreages.

Allphin exhibited at Bone Creek Museum more than a decade ago in 2014, pairing batiks of prairie grasses alongside dried specimen samples from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum collection. Her skill has grown in leaps and bounds since then as proven by her numerous accolades, national collectors, and sold-out workshops. We are tickled pink that she has dedicated so much time and attention to a brand-new collection for exhibition at Bone Creek.

Batik is traditionally an ancient decorative art used to embellish textiles. She applies this technique to paper which is immersed in a dye bath or wash. Wax is applied to preserve the color. This process is repeated many times creating additional color combinations and detail. In the end, the wax is removed revealing the finished art. Allphin is a master of color theory. She does not use green in her landscapes. The greens emerge from the careful layering of yellows and blues.

Early in her contemplation of the theme, she wrote, "It's amazing how we move from moment to moment and are always changing. How quickly time moves and we can only really see the change as we move into new seasons. The abundance we enjoy was cultivated in the past and all the rewards we find in the future are cultivated today. We find this wisdom in the signs prevalent in nature, in ancient texts and even within time and space."

Large-scale batiks on paper drape the walls of our new galleries in a similar presentation as textile arts—an homage to the process's heritage. I hope that you will visit these and take advantage of meeting her at our opening reception on March 22nd. She will also be teaching a workshop at Bone Creek on July 25th. More details and registration can be found on our website.

By Amanda Guenther, Curator





"We cultivate the land but we also cultivate in our lives, we reap what we sow, what we do now is evident later. That takes a certain amount of vision and understanding of the unseen. It takes faith." -Kristine Allphin

IMAGES

Kristine Allphin, *Untitled Birch Trees*, batik on paper, 43x56" *(cover)*
Kristine Allphin, *Ornaments of Gold*, batik on paper, 35x 45" *(top right)*
Kristine Allphin, *Heaven and Earth*, batik on paper, 43x45" *(bottom right)*

CALENDAR -of- EVENTS

18 MAR — **Museum Closed for Installation**
March 18-19, 2026

20 MAR — **Kristine Allphin: Cultivate**
Mar. 20-Sept. 6, 2026
Reception: Mar. 22nd, 1-3pm

20 MAR — **John Spence: Cowboys and Indians**
Mar. 20-Aug. 23, 2026
Reception: Mar. 22nd, 1-3pm

21 MAR — **Easter Egg Workshop**
Saturday, Mar. 21
10am-12 and 1-3pm

22 MAY — **America the Beautiful: Commemorating the Country's 250th Anniversary**
May 22- Nov. 15, 2026

20 JUN — **Summer Art Market**
June 20, 2026
10am-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
312 N 5th St, David City, NE 68632

UPCOMING EVENTS

UKRAINIAN PYSANKY: BATIK EASTER EGG WORKSHOP

PLEASE JOIN US | SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

Just in time for Easter, learn the traditional practice of coloring eggs the Ukrainian way.



$20 per person

Learn more and register at **bonecreek.org/events**
Saturday, March 21st

SPRING SHOWS: OPENING RECEPTION

PLEASE JOIN US | SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND



Guest exhibiting artists Kristine Allphin and John Spence will be at an opening reception on Sunday from 1:00-3:00pm. They are looking forward to meeting visitors and talking with them about their artwork. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.

SUMMER ART MARKET

PLEASE JOIN US | SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH

We're making it annual! You made our Summer Art Market a success in 2025, and we are thrilled to get to bring it back in 2026. Peruse the market, enjoy the coffee bar, and end your visit with some signature "What's the Scoop?" ice cream. This year, we are welcoming more local artists with a wide selection of items and art for sale. We hope you'll spend **Saturday, June 20th**, with us!



Summer Art Market 2025

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

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

JOHN SPENCE: *COWBOYS AND INDIANS*

John Spence is likely best known for his photography and cinematography, with a lengthy career in film and the fine arts. In 2017, Spence consciously adopted a practice a friend of his had used decades earlier. "Assemblages" are a combination of handmade and found objects, often taking a sculptural form.

The conflicts of Westward expansion are presented in this collection with simultaneous attitudes of sincerity and wit. As Spence describes in his artist statement, "This exploration may include glorification or celebration on either side of a conflict situation. Who is telling the story and from what point of view? Please bear in mind that humor and playfulness are meaningful ingredients in any serious inquiry." His ideas are experiments, driven by the artist's curiosity about what's possible and how elements can inform one another.



John Spence, *Red, White, and Blue*, 2018, mixed media, height: 33" width: 24.5" depth: 9", Courtesy of the artist.

SHOP



THANK A FARMER T-SHIRT
Purchase at the museum or www.shoptrailblazers.store

YOU HELP WRITE THE AGRARIAN STORY

Our patrons and members provide irreplaceable support for the exhibits and programs that fuel the Agrarian Art story told at Bone Creek Museum. Legacy and planned giving is a beautiful way to shape the future of the museum's sustainability and growth after you or your loved ones are gone.

Notable Recent Gifts of Art

I am honored when our friends think of us as a home for their prized work of art or collection. We are so pleased to have recently installed a wall by Nebraska artist Grant Reynard in our Regionalist gallery. Painter, etcher, lithographer, and illustrator Grant Reynard was born in Grand Island, Nebraska and originally trained as a pianist, which he abandoned in favor of the visual arts, pursuing painting, etching, lithography, and illustration at the Art Institute of Chicago, 1906-07.

In 1913, he became Art Director of *Red Book* and contributed illustrations there, as well as to *Colliers* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. Reynard pursued advanced training with Charles Chapman, Harvey Dunn, Mahonri Young and Harry Wickey at Leonia, New Jersey, and maintained a studio there for many years. The Grant Reynard Collection is a 2025 gift from Eric and Ruth Brown of Lincoln, Nebr.

Impact Nebraska artist Joann Brown has recently given a significant collection of her Earthworks paintings to the museum to live in perpetuity. Jo Brown holds doctoral degrees in multiple disciplines and has retired from teaching. The collection of abstract landscapes that the museum has accepted create a sense of place formed through the colors and textures of the paint as well as through the viewer's experience and imagination.



Gifted Grant Reynard pieces in the Regionalist Gallery



Artist Jo Brown in front of a painting in her home

FOLLOW US