BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
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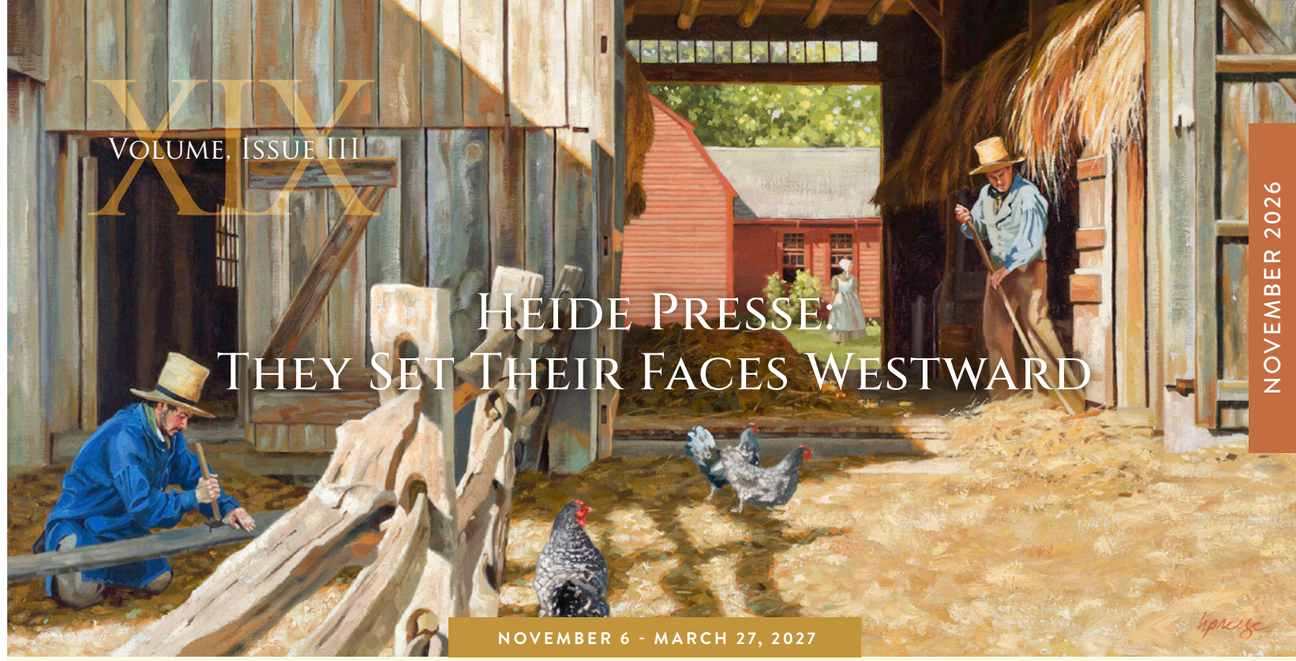




BONE CREEK
MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART

Agrarian Art
NEWSLETTER

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Heide Presse: They Set Their Faces Westward

NOVEMBER 6 - MARCH 27, 2027

NOVEMBER 2026

The museum is so pleased to exhibit an abridged version of a national traveling exhibition by artist Heide Presse. The collection of 24 paintings and 47 drawings was shown at three major art museums from 2023-25. Despite a much-reduced number of paintings at Bone Creek, we are still delighted to be able to tell the story of the ambitious and highly successful project more than twenty years in the making.

This exhibition tells the story of an Oregon Trail journey through the journals of settler Keturah Penton Belknap, offering a uniquely female perspective on the westward migration of the nineteenth century.

Acclaimed artist Heide Presse spent years studying Keturah's journals, written between 1839 and 1848. Inspired by Keturah's vivid accounts, Presse created a compelling collection of paintings and drawings that capture the challenges, triumphs, and everyday experiences of Keturah and her family as they made their way west.

The exhibition is divided into two sections. The first explores Keturah's marriage and her family's life on an Iowa farm; the second follows their arduous journey to Oregon with the Watts wagon train.

Heide said, "When I read the journals, the whole thing came alive to me and I was able to see it in my imagination. I loved reading the female perspective and how they managed their personal lives during such a long hard journey, often with children."

Presse is an artist who does her research. Authenticity was extremely important for this project. She engaged a model–one of her historical reenactor acquaintances to serve as the figure of Keturah. This decision provides beautiful consistency in the collection and really helps the story come to life. She worked with a number of other historical experts to ensure she depicted period clothing and other accurate material culture.



"When I read the journals, the whole thing came alive to me and I was able to see it in my imagination."
- Heide Presse

IMAGES

Heide Presse, *Barn*, oil, 20x36", Bone Creek Collection *(cover)*
Heide Presse, *Right of Way*, oil, 24x48", Private Collection loan *(right)*

CALENDAR of EVENTS

28 AUG — **Free and Whimsical Exhibition**
Aug. 28, 2026 – Mar. 27, 2027

06 NOV — **Heide Presse: They Set Their Faces Westward**
Nov. 6 – March 27, 2027

06 NOV — **Kansas Prairie with the SNW Gallery**
Nov. 6 – March 27, 2027

12 NOV — **Pressed Flower Workshop**
Nov. 12, 2026

06 DEC — **Christmas on the Bricks**
Dec. 6, 2026

06 JAN — **Closed for Winter Break**
Jan. 6-8 2027

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

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MUSEUM OF AGRARIAN ART
312 N 5th St, David City, NE 68632

NEWS & EVENTS

SUMMER ARTS, SUMMER FUN

Summer at Bone Creek Museum was full of unique arts learning experiences for all ages.



In June, the education team partnered with Butler County Extension to bring two workshop opportunities to local 4-H students–a batik-inspired workshop taught by museum staff and a photography workshop led by current exhibiting photographer, R.J. Kern. In July, batik artist, Kristine Allphin, shared her knowledge and skills in a one-day workshop. Participants learned the basics of the batik process including composition, dye layer planning, color theory, and wax application, and were able to experiment with the artform to create three original works. Bone Creek staff concluded summer programming with teaching a session at Butler County Arts Council's Summer Art Day Camp. Gabrielle and Sarah led students in the creation and decoration of personalized accordion fold books. We thank all participants, teachers, and partnering organizations for supporting our community outreach!







PRESSED FLOWER WORKSHOP THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

Learn the art of pressed flower design in this workshop led by Holly Lukasiewicz, owner and artist of District 2 Floral Studio in Omaha, Nebraska. Using pressed flowers and vintage frames provided by Lukasiewicz, participants will create and take home their very own works of pressed flower art. All works will be ready to display upon class completion.

This workshop is great for all ages 7+! We ask that all participants ages 7-14 are accompanied by a guardian.



Image courtesy of Holly Lukasiewicz, District 2 Floral.

$20 per person | Workshop spots are limited! Register at **bonecreek.org/events.**

CHRISTMAS ON THE BRICKS

Begin your holiday season in David City! On **Sunday, December 6**, Bone Creek Museum will host a free winter themed craft at David City's Christmas on the Bricks festival. Staff will guide participants in making a winter landscape watercolor holiday card. Stop by from **12-4:30 p.m.** to view the galleries, paint your masterpiece, and enjoy the festivities around the town square!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

KANSAS PRAIRIE SELECTIONS WITH SNW GALLERY

A group of artists represented by a gallery in Manhattan, Kansas bring together a beautiful collection of works to best highlight the beauty of the area. Many rural landscape artists paint what they see and what they know best, as is the case here. They paint the bounty of the region, the light in the far-off rolling hills, and the wildlife amidst the fields.



James Borger, *Flint Hills Feast*, acrylic on canvas, 20 x 30" with permission from the artist

PHOTO DOCUMENTARY AND FINE ART

Two promised gifts of art strike a similar chord. Into our archives will go a portfolio of photography by Merrill Peterson taken in 1970 when he captured several images from a friend's family farm in Iowa. The artist remarks, even then that it was a farm frozen in time, they had only recently added electricity and running water to the property.

Also new to the museum will be a collection by Mariette Pathy Allen taken in 1960s documenting migrant farming in New Jersey. Both collections capture the recent past of American agrarian communities through the lens of a fine artists' sensibilities of composition and light.



Merrill Peterson, *Shelburg Farm, 1970*, silver gelatin print



Mariette Pathy Allen, *New Jersey tenant farmer*, silver gelatin print

Images courtesy of the artists.

FOLLOW US



DALE NICHOLS CORNER

Perhaps one of the periods in the life of Dale Nichols that offers ample room for new research is his time in Arizona. He lived in Tucson and then in Tubac, AZ from 1940-1954. He worked on projects with Encyclopedia Britannica, Tucson city planning department, and founded the Tubac Art School to name only three. Through a connection with the Tucson Historical Preservation Foundation, I recently learned of his role with the publication of the Tucson Magazine. His influence in the city planning and design as well as color palette for architecture is still felt today.



Cover illustration by Dale Nichols, Tucson Magazine, March 1952

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