Naomi Friend grew up in the town of Sioux Center, Iowa and her artwork is strongly influenced by farm life. Her mother and grandmother both grew up on farms and, while she was growing up, Naomi spent time on her grandmother’s farm in southwest Minnesota. The art in *Restless Tenants* conveys messages about land, heritage, and life in the Midwest. She feels that art is a catalyst for self-discovery and greater thoughtfulness about how we can live in balance with the land.

Friend says, “We can be demanding tenants of our earth. I am searching for ways to bring life into balance.”

The exhibition also includes historic agrarian artists’ work from the Bone Creek Museum collection. Friend was eager to display her work next to the work of great artists with whom she shares a love for the Midwest landscape. Friend is from Story City, Iowa and earned her MFA from Iowa State University in 2013. *Restless Tenants* explores the idea of humanity’s temporal relationship to the land. Friend approaches the subjects of contemporary farming and sustainability by layering historic images printed in alternative photographic techniques with watercolor and oil painting. The Van Dyke photographic process she uses originated in the late 1800’s and offers rich brown tonalities with a classical period look. Cyanotype is a photographic printing process introduced by Sir John Herschel in 1842 and which results in a cyan-blue print. Her pieces are mixed media on cotton fabric, oak wood, and paper. Friend experiments with various techniques to create results that are rather unpredictable when she begins the creation process.

The exhibition *Restless Tenants* began April 28 and is on display through June 29. A reception on May 24 at 3 pm will provide an opportunity for Friend to participate in a panel discussion with Randy Waln facilitated by Amanda Mobley Guenther. Waln will discuss the work he currently has on display at Bone Creek in the exhibition *Degeneration of the Family Farm.*
Message from the Director

I invite you to become a member of Bone Creek Museum’s Corporate Sponsors League. Your annual support will ensure that the museum will offer quality exhibitions, education programs for children, and cultural events for all ages for years to come. Listing your name as a member in this important group can begin by sponsoring one of these two exhibitions. - Carol Kobza

The Farm, Then, Now, Tomorrow is an exhibition in which crowd-sourced, historic farm photographs from families in southeastern Nebraska will be used to inspire new work by artists from throughout the Midwest, who will address issues facing farming and agrarian life.

Canadian Foothills beginning in August 2014 is an exhibition of paintings that capture the variety of terrain, the geography and land use in the Rocky Mountains and High Plains surrounding Calgary, British Columbia, Canada. This will be the American debut of work by Canadian artist Denise LeMaster.

Education

Bone Creek Museum plans to hold an educational program related to Prairie Portraits, scheduled for July – October. The museum’s aim is to connect people to the land through art and develop an increased awareness of native prairies, the species that rely on its existence, and the importance of their conservation. Batik is a wax resist method on fabric. The exhibition begins July 2.

Prairie Portraits

This summer Bone Creek Museum will display Kristine Allphin Brakenhoff’s exhibition entitled Prairie Portraits. Kristine describes her work as more than an exhibition. Her goal in creating these batiks is to create greater awareness and appreciation for the beauty of native prairies and the importance of their conservation. Batik is a wax resist method on fabric. The exhibition begins July 2.

Volunteer

Ed Seck is never too busy to help Bone Creek Museum sort out its computer issues despite his hectic schedule teaching and volunteering elsewhere. Thanks to Ed for being our guru of reducing techno-stress.

New Board Members

Kenneth Bé leads the museum’s exhibitions committee. He serves as Head of Paintings Conservation at Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha, NE and is an accomplished lute player.

Vickie Ridle, who chairs the fundraising committee, is the Executive Director of the Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City. Vickie is a devoted patron of the arts and has visited more than 300 museums throughout the world serving as a docent in many museums.

Collection

The Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art Collection continues to grow as we acquire pieces such as Johne Richardson’s Longing for the Plow, color plate painting (left).

Volunteering

Hoping to get involved in the Bone Creek Museum’s Volunteer program? Click here to register.

For more information on Bone Creek Museum events, please call Carol Kobza at (402) 641-6458 or email akobza@bonecreek.org.