In May 13, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art opens its latest exhibition, Ballad of the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow (Ballad). May 23 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm the museum hosts an opening reception.

The humanities are how we explore who we are collectively, and individually, and what it means to be human through reading, learning, thinking, questioning, and discussing. It is the museum’s goal to encourage this kind of investigation through Ballad.

When viewing the exhibition, the viewer is encouraged to: investigate how artists were inspired to create new works of art; examine what farm families valued; reflect on how farming and rural life has changed; and imagine the future of farming and rural life.

Guest Curator James Jones said, “The creation of Ballad is a collaborative process of discovery. Although the visible result is an art exhibition, the purpose of the project is the process itself – discussion both formally and informally among artists and photograph lenders, young people with their parents and Depression-era ancestors, viewers and artists, humanities scholars and educators.”

The museum is grateful to more than 42 families nationwide who loaned more than three hundred historic farm photographs. These photographs have provided inspiration for eleven artists to create new works of art for Ballad. The artists’ goal was not to focus on nostalgia but rather to tell their stories of farming and rural life now and tomorrow.

Ballof the Farm: Then, Now, Tomorrow

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Sponsored in part by the Butler County Area Foundation Fund the museum is creating a documentary video which features the artists, documents the artistic process and the stories of photo lenders.

Ballad was inspired by the idea that Bone Creek Museum belongs to everyone. Outreach events will make residents of the surrounding region partners in the project. Through Ballad, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art aims to fulfill its mission of connecting people to the land through art.
Message from the Director

Building an ambitious project like Ballad requires many people to get their hands dirty and work long hours. I am honored that many people have joined to bring Ballad to fruition. Thank you to all of you who have supported the project with your time, effort, and funding. Special thanks to our eleven artists and Guest Curator James Jones.

Featured sponsors: Mid-America Arts Alliance; Peter Kiewit Foundation; Humanities Nebraska; Butler County Area Arts Foundation; The Holland Foundation; Allen Capital Group, LLC; Kastel Fine Art; Brikel Homestead, Inc.; Mahler Family; Marvin Financial Advisors, Inc.; Anne Nolan (Covault) and Allen Covault; Butler County Arts Council

Adopt an Artist: Cara E. Potter in memory of George and Sabrina Potter; Rich and Annette Winlow, Memorial to James E. Svoboda; Memorial to Darlene Ternes; Walker, Nancy, Diane, and Scott Bihay.

Louise Niemann, office manager of the Nebraska Building the Collection

Gift of Art
Beth Van Hoesen, Chinese Cabbage (Cabbage) (AP II/X), 1960/61, Etching with roulette and drypoint, 9 7/8 x 7 7/8" Gift of E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust

New Board Members
Bone Creek Museum is honored to have four talented new board members: Tim Hilger (Advisory Board), Johnathan Hladik; Barb O’Connell; and Carey Potter. Ask about how you can become part of our team.

Gift of Art
Cobblestone Inn and Suites, Schuyler, NE

Building the Collection
Jules Mogniez, Big Horn Sheep, circa 1860, bronze, 14x8x10" Gift of Gerald Wempner

On June 30 at 6:00 pm Humanities scholars Kathryn Benzel and Mike Adams will perform the music of Woody Guthrie and discuss the Dust Bowl Era at the Hruska Memorial Library in David City.

September 9 Bill Ganzel will provide a presentation at East Butler Public Schools in Brainard, NE. Ganzel is the author of the book "Dust Bowl Descent." The book tells some of the stories of people and places that were first photographed during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Students with their parents and grandparents will learn what it was like to live through one of the nation’s most desperate periods.

Please watch for more information about other upcoming outreach events on the Bone Creek Museum Facebook page, on the museum’s website bonecreek.org, or by calling the museum at 402.367.4488.