Pastoral landscapes and bucolic scenes of Nebraska by oil painter Wendy Hall, on view Nov. 29, 2013 through March 23, 2014, encourage viewers to stop and enjoy the scenery.

Wendy Hall has been painting since the mid-nineties. She is originally from Rye, New York, north of New York City. Her mother would take her into the city to the Metropolitan Museum of Art as a young girl. There she fostered her love for art. She was an art director for years before turning to the canvas herself.

Now she farms with her husband outside Ashland. She paints the surroundings of his great-grandparents’ 160-acre homestead. The property was once the site of a one-room country school. A bit of the foundation and the flag pole are all that remain. Like so many of Nebraska’s farms, original home sites are just a memory.

But the land still brings life and joy to the Halls. They take care of the land and its creatures because they know the land will take care of them. Hall’s half-wild, half-pet Blue Jay sings the story. (Although he was too shy to come down to say hello when I helped feed him.)

This is a working farm and Hall is a studio painter. Images of the farm are tranquil, depicting a life of easy days, just standing and lying around. There are rarely human figures in Hall’s work. When there is work to be done, she is out there helping. There is no time to take photographs for potential paintings. Those pictures come later, when the work is finished; the animals and land at peace.

Hall has taken some life cues from her subjects. Over the years, she has encouraged herself to slow down and live with the work for a while to know it is completely finished. But the end to the farm work never seems to come.

-Amanda Mobley Guenther
Message from the Director

The annual membership drive begins in November. Your tax-deductible membership support helps the museum continue to offer agrarian art exhibitions, educational events, artist talks and panel discussions, art workshops, humanities presentations, and exhibition receptions.

Please watch for a membership letter in the mail from Bone Creek and respond generously. Your membership is welcomed any time during the year and particularly now as we plan our new season of exhibitions and events.

All the best,
Carol Ann Kobza

Tom Bartek Gift

Artist Tom Bartek (right) gifted a painting entitled Bridge of Ecstasy, 1983, acrylic on linen canvas, 40”x36” to Bone Creek Museum’s permanent collection. This piece juxtaposes objects in space to give them an ephemeral quality as if from a dream.

Become a Member

Education

Education is a key element in how Bone Creek serves the community. During a two-week period in October alone, the museum received 113 students who participated in interactive activities and follow-up art exercises in their home classrooms. Below, Allen Covault leads a group to discuss what they saw in various artworks including animals, the weather, and how it relates to farm life. Children regularly have an opportunity to learn about perspective, horizon, vertical lines, texture, why the piece is permanent collection. This piece juxtaposes objects in space to give them an ephemeral quality as if from a dream.

Some members of the Mountain Plains Museums Association toured Bone Creek on Sept 30 as part of the annual conference in Lincoln. The Agri-Art tour included lunch at Winfield’s, musical entertainment and a tour of the Butler County Veteran’s Museum.

Bone Creek Receives Two Awards from MPMA

Bone Creek received two awards from the Mountain Plains Museums Association October 2 at its annual conference. The awards were in the category of museums with operation budgets under $250,000. First place was awarded to Director Carol Ann Kobza for the museum’s Online Presence through its activity on Facebook and its website. Anna Nolan (Covault) accepted the award on the Director’s behalf.

Amanda Mobley Guenther received a third consecutive award for first place in publication design for the gallery guide Doug Johnson Landscapes.

Dale Nichols Corner

Regionalist artist Dale Nichols (1905-1992) is featured in the Fall edition of Artland magazine, produced by the Sheldon Art Museum. Bone Creek Museum’s curator Amanda Mobley Guenther was interviewed by Curator Teliza Rodriguez of Museum of Nebraska Art, about the enduring quality of the artist and his work. Bone Creek’s book Dale Nichols: Transcending Regionalism (2011) is available for purchase at the museum and on the website at bonecreek.org.