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Exhibitions Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the North Dakota Council on the Arts



Exhibitions Celebrating the North Dakota Council on the Arts' 50th Anniversary

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA) and the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), with support from Starion Bank, organized two exhibits to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The exhibits display the artwork of 50 North Dakota artists, as well as the work of the exhibit curator. One of these exhibits is displayed in the Heritage Center, and the other is a touring exhibit that will travel the state during this anniversary year. This catalog highlights the work in both exhibits.

As we enter our anniversary year, it is good to remember how the agency was founded. Two years after national legislation created the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, the North Dakota state legislature established the North Dakota Arts and Humanities in 1967, as an official agency of the State of North Dakota. In 1980, the official name was shortened to the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

During NDCA's fifty years, it has provided varied services to the citizens of North Dakota. The agency addresses the need for creativity in public education and enhances arts education. NDCA increases the economic impact the arts have on our state and on local communities, improves the wellness of our citizens through the use of arts programming, preserves our cultural heritage through folk and traditional arts mentorships, and enhances the quality of life for all of our citizens.

We would like to thank the North Dakota State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts for funding our state agency for the past 50 years. Thank you also to Starion Bank for their continued support of the arts.

~ Beth Gigante Klingenstein, PhD; Executive Director, NDCA

Curator Statement

Fifty artists for fifty years – each artist is a testament to growth of the arts in North Dakota, a snapshot of the present and a hope for the arts in the future of our state. Artists, emerging and seasoned, take their place in the history of this great state, and their fine art works showcase the diversity among them and the connection they have to North Dakota. Without support from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, our ability to grow would have been diminished. Without the support of current, and past leaders, we would not have made the progress we have realized, from few opportunities, to the current prominence of the arts in our state, where we now have arts opportunities for all who wish to take part. I thank the artists for their beautiful pieces of art, time, and cooperation. Let's celebrate!

~ Linda Olson, Director, NDAGA

Heritage Center Exhibit October 28, 2016 through April 30, 2017

Couring Exhibit

October 2016 through December 2018, please visit http://www.ndaga.org for more information.

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Susana Amundarain Minot, ND



Master of Fine Arts Instructor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Susana Amundaraín is a Venezuelan-born American living in Minot. She has exhibited nationally and internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Amundaraín's work is represented in museums in South America and the United States, as well as in many private and corporate collections.



"You can look at a picture for a week and never think of it again. You can also look at a picture for a second and think of it all your life." - Joan Miró

These words from the Spanish artist Joan Miró have always had some resonance with the way I feel about certain moments in my life, particularly those related to the fleeting occurrence of a place. I usually remember them in abstract form, imbedded with a particular atmosphere, a unique signature; these are 'pictures' that have stayed with me, as I am adding new ones throughout the experience of life.



Trina Astvatsaturova Wahpeton, ND

Master of Arts Artist in Residence, North Dakota Council on the Arts

Biography

Irina Astvatsaturova, was born in the USSR: Azerbaijan, Baku. She came to North Dakota with a refugee program in 1992: Armenians from Baku of Republic Azerbaijan. She has become a citizen of the United States.

"When I reflect on my childhood, I was blessed. My grandmothers babysat me and kept me busy with crafts. I observed many facets of needlework -- sewing, embroidery, crocheting, and knitting. In elementary school I started embroidering. We also embroidered samples for stitching in my "Domestic Arts" class."

Artist Statement

I first tried beading at age 17. My inspiration for beading birds is spiritual. The bird is between sky and land; it is our thread with God.





Bradley J. Bachmeier Fargo, ND





Master of Fine Arts Professor, Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM)

Biography

Brad Bachmeier is a native of Anamoose, North Dakota. For 15 years, Bachmeier has had the opportunity to teach art at every grade level in both North Dakota and Minnesota. In 2009, he received the prestigious bi-annual North Dakota Governor's Award in Arts Education for his "numerous, significant and continued contributions to the state and region."

Brad has been an arts activist for decades, and was recently appointed to the North Dakota Council on the Arts Board in Bismarck.

Artist Statement

"Earth I am, it is most true, disdain me not, for so are you." – English folk pottery motto.

I create ceramic vessels and sculpture that tell the story of Mankind's ancient and universal partnership with clay through the use of global patterns, symbols, iconography, geologic elements and firing techniques.

Shane Balkowitsch Bismarck, ND

Bachelor of Science Wet Plate Photographer

Biography

Shane Balkowitsch was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota. Shane received no formal art training, but saw a wet plate photograph online that intrigued him. He studied and researched many books before assembling a makeshift studio, including chemical supplies and a wood box camera.

From his first wet plate in 2012 to his latest shot, Shane has created over 2,000 portrait plates of family, friends and complete strangers to date.





Artist Statement

Each and every day the world is filled with millions and millions of digital photographs that have no value, character, significance or physical form. That is not the case with a wet plate. The wet plate process is magical and the end result is tangible and precious.

Wet plate photography was such an important medium for expression in the past, and I want it to continue to be today. It has been said that "you do not take a wet plate photograph, it is given to you" and this is so very true."





Associate Degree, Fine Arts Visual Specialist, KLJ Engineering

Biography

A native of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, Basler has received national, regional and local recognition for his artwork and designs. His artwork is represented in galleries in South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Local works are on display at Bismarck Veteran's Memorial Public Library, Amber's Dream Sanford Health Center, State Historical Society of North Dakota, KLI headquarters and Minot Aero Center, Minot, North Dakota.

Artist Statement

A basic theory of the creative process is transformation. As an artist I reflect visually on what surrounds me, and spiritually perceive beyond the visual dimension.

Micah Bloom Minot, ND

Master of Fine Arts Assistant Professor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Micah Bloom is an artist and educator, and he teaches at Minot State University. Bloom has currently been working on a multi-media project with flood-dispersed books. This work, titled Codex, was recently exhibited at the North Dakota Museum of Art as part of the "The Art Makers" series and involves film, photography, and installation.

Artist Statement

On June 22, 2011, the Souris River ravaged Minot, North Dakota. Forcing its way through homes, it seized thousands of precious items carrying them to new resting places. Foremost among the displaced were hundreds, possibly thousands, of books. Strewn in trees, across roadways, along railroad tracks . . . these books were pilfered from shelves, floated through broken windows, and recklessly abandoned to fend the natural elements.

My parents instilled in me a reverence for books. Books were not to be stepped on, sat upon or abused, because they contained something mysterious and powerful. Beyond their mere physical composition of wood fibers and ink, they played some indispensable role that demanded respect and preservation.





Pieper Bloomquist Grand Forks, ND





Bachelor of Science Oncologist Nurse, Altru Hospital Artist

Biography

Pieper Fleck Bloomquist, a Minnesota native and current Grand Forks resident, has been painting in the Scandinavian and Austrian styles of folk art since 1993. Pieper was featured in the 2003 Prairie Public Television documentary Scandinavian Traditions. She participated in several other North Dakota Council on the Arts sponsored programs, including the Bloch Project in 2014 and Art for Life since 2002.

Artist Statement

Swedish Dalmålning, Norwegian Rosemaling and German Bauernmalerei are traditional folk arts, which reflect the cultural life of a community that shares a common heritage. I love being able to paint scenes of my own family and friends in the context of a traditional style. Placing scenes like these in the context of traditional Swedish flower and scroll formations connects them to my heritage and provides a kind of circle that makes them seem complete.

David Boggs Fargo, ND

Master of Fine Arts Professor Emeritas, Concordia College

Biography

David Boggs grew up traveling the world as part of a military family and graduated high school in Liberia, West Africa. He holds signature memberships in National Watercolor Society and Watercolor USA Honor Society. Exhibitions include hundreds of competitive and invitational exhibitions, and four major one-person shows in Minneapolis since 1999.



Artist Statement

With the sky so great a part of any scene here in the Midwest, just as it is in the Netherlands, it seems natural that I draw upon the Dutch landscape tradition of awarding the sky the great portion of the composition. My paintings set images of sky and perhaps land before a viewer, and asks the viewer to consider the scenes as special things, as devotionals.



Brent Braniff Minot, ND



Bachelor of Arts Graphic Designer, Editor and Director, KXMC

Biography

A native of Devils Lake, North Dakota, Brent Braniff has been doing drawings, paintings, photographs and videos since the late 1970s. Brent's work has found a place at juried and invitational exhibitions. The Midwest Film and Video Showcase at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis has shown Braniff's music videos.



Artist Statement

It must have been my youth and naivety that pushed me to ask a store clerk if he would model for my art. After a glance towards a fellow clerk and an embarrassed smile, he said yes. That moment started thirty plus years of drawing the male figure and telling a story that involves love, sex, politics and the emotional complexity of being human.

A good lot of my drawings start with no real prior invention and no preordained outcome. Usually, a work will finally reveal a direction and a statement. Something will happen. Something becomes clear. It's almost as if a story was hidden between the lines all along waiting for me to pull it into focus.

Bennett Brien Belcourt, ND

Master of Fine Arts Instructor, Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC)

Biography

Bennett Brien started drawing at the age of six. During his early life, he attended school in Belcourt, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Brien is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. He presently teaches art at the Turtle Mountain Community College. Brien has completed many commissions for rebar (reinforcing steel bar) sculptures, such as the rebar buffalo and pony that grace the grounds of the state capitol building in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Artist Statement

I started drawing when I was six. My dad worked in a government program, and he'd bring home these old forms that they didn't need anymore. My older brother Pierre drew on the back of them—ships and tanks and boats—and I thought, 'Man, that's cool.' So I started doing it too. And I've never quit.

Illegal Aliens 1492, is a collaborative work with Adam Kemp, who made the frame. "This is a social commentary about illegal aliens from Christopher Columbus to now. It is wide open for interpretation." – Brien

"This frame was made from recycled lathe from a hundred year old house painted different colours and with recycled paint to represent the never ending story of migration of people."

– Kemp





Kimble Bromley Fargo, ND



Master of Fine Arts Professor, North Dakota State University (NDSU)

Biography

Kimble A. Bromley has served as a visiting artist throughout the upper Midwest, Ecuador, and Mexico. He has painted abroad in Cuba, Jamaica, Ecuador, and Mexico. His work has been supported by grants from Kellogg, Teagle/Bell South, and Partners of the Americas and exhibited internationally, nationally and regionally.

Artist Statement

I live on 20 acres with twelve acres of woods and eight-acre pond, my own Giverny. The openness of the pond, the denseness of the foliage, the continuous changing color and light is the focus for my abstract paintings. Responding to this environment, I use marks and color to express the essence of place. My paintings are not duplicates of this specific location. They are my responses to this unique environment. These painterly artworks are about color, light and a celebration of place and life.



Kaye Burian Manning, ND

Rancher Artist

Biography

Kaye Burian finds her western way of life easy to portray as she draws from her rodeo, horse show and ranch background to give her paintings an authentic and realistic look. Kaye and her husband currently own and operate Lazy 77 Ranch where they raise red and black Angus and Quarter Horses.

Artist Statement

Nature has always been an important part of my life. I had the good fortune to grow up on a working cattle ranch and now continue the way of life on our ranch. I try to share a greater appreciation for subtlety within the larger world around us, and a respect for all living things. An intimate understanding and appreciation of the surroundings is essential and can only be obtained by interaction with both animals and environments.

My work concentrates on how light reveals objects and animals through shadow and color. Equine images are one of my favorite subjects; sound and movement enter into the peacefulness of their surroundings, which I try to capture in paint on canvas.





Sarah Christianson Cummings, ND



Master of Fine Arts Photographer

Biography

Sarah Christianson grew up on a four-generation family farm in the heart of eastern North Dakota's Red River Valley. Immersed in that vast expanse of the Great Plains, she developed a strong affinity for its landscape.

Her work has been exhibited, collected, and supported by a variety of institutions. Her first book, *Homeplace*, was published by Daylight Books in 2013.



Artist Statement

"Expose a child to a particular environment at his susceptible time and he will perceive in shapes of that environment until he dies." Wallace Stegner, *Wolf Willow*, 1955

This statement resonates with me because all of my work revolves around North Dakota, where I was born and raised. My roots here run deep: both sides of my family emigrated from Norway and homesteaded in the state. My two major projects thus far, Homeplace and When the Landscape is Quiet Again, present a cross-section of rural life in North Dakota and are a study in contrasts: from black and white to color, paternal versus maternal heritage, and the fertile farmland of the east to the new industrialized oil landscape of the west. My work from these two different projects underscores the dramatic shift in the state's economy and culture, past and present.

Daphne Johnson Clark Williston, ND

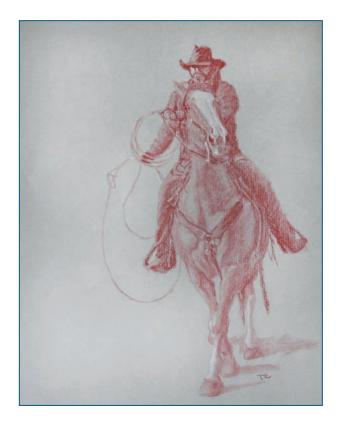
Bachelor of Arts Artist

Biography

Born and raised in rural North Dakota three miles from the Montana border, Daphne Clark spent time on her grandparents ranch 10 miles from her childhood home. She spent the majority of her childhood at their ranch; chasing cows, building fences, milking cows and helping check for spring calves. She states: "There is a rough beauty to this area that few people get to enjoy, as the area remains classified as frontier with less than six people per square mile."

Artist Statement

I want my work to capture a "snapshot in time" for the future, or in some cases, to reinvent the past for people to remember. I find a great satisfaction in capturing not only people's likeness, but also their essence, keeping it alive, hopefully for generations. The same satisfaction can be found in capturing not just a place but the feeling of the place. I have a passion for capturing the people, places and activities here in North Dakota, so they can be shared and more people can see the beauty we have here.





Susan Davy Burlington, ND



Bachelor of Science Artist

Biography

In 1975, after working as a nurse for six years, Susan Davy decided to become a full-time functional potter. Since then, Davy has been making her living producing pottery on her grandparent's homestead.

Artist Statement

Davy's original inspiration began serendipitously when she took an elective course in ceramics in college. Clay got her attention and has kept it ever since. She says, "I love the tactile sense, the hands on of making objects in clay."



Deane Colin Fay Gackle, ND

Master of Fine Arts Artist

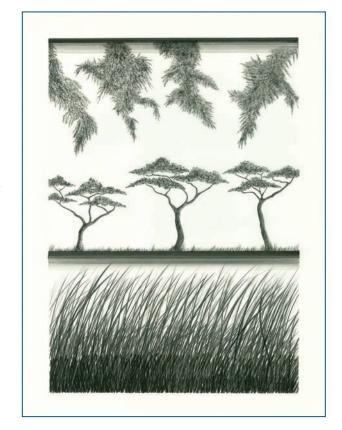
Biography

Deane Colin Fay is a native of North Dakota. Fay has exhibited throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, New York, and Canada. He has received numerous awards and has completed a number of commissions. His work is represented in public, private and museum collections. His artwork has been included in exhibitions along with world-renowned architects, designers and artists.

Artist Statement

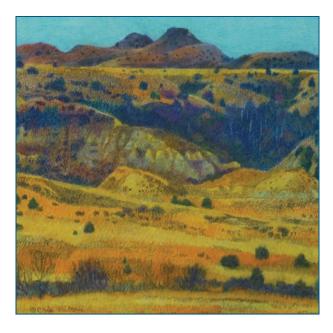
In recent years my art has focused on capturing the nuances of the North Dakota's prairies. Drawing on my early work as a minimalist painter, my paintings and sculptures portray a prairie landscape constructed of bold fields of color punctuated with a vocabulary of images and forms variously referred to as "icons." These are abstracted forms of grasses, fence lines, stubble fields, trees, clouds, snow banks, and crop rows all rendered in high-relief, textured surfaces that are juxtaposed with the pristine smooth fields of color.

Responding to the winter landscape, so much a part of our region, I have created a series of monochromatic landscapes capturing both the fury and serenity of winter.





Cris Fulton Bowman, ND





Bachelor of Arts Artist

Biography

Bowman artist Cris Fulton specializes in pastel pencil drawings and watercolor crayon paintings of sunflowers and the North Dakota landscape. She has been an artist and photographer for well over three decades. Her work has been shown at galleries in Minneapolis, Taos, Santa Fe, North Dakota, and Montana.

Artist Statement

Southwestern North Dakota is a vast and truly awesome territory where you can still witness buffalo herds, bighorn sheep, elk, antelope, wild horses, eagles, and hawks. I love the wildness and wideness, the solitude, silence, and spirit of this frontier region of America. It is my desire to share the expansive liberation, the reverence, the wonder, the beauty, and the joy that I have experienced out here on my home ground, my home on the range.

Pat Gerlach Wing, ND

Photographer

Biography

Pat Gerlach grew up in North Dakota, moved back from a newspaper job in Minnesota in 1977 to photograph wildlife, and he has been doing it full time since. He decided that the photographic print was the highest and best use of photography. He taught himself color darkroom printing with Cibachrome and started selling photographs at art shows all around the country.



Artist Statement

North Dakota images have always been the core of my work. Outside of this area, most of the people who have bought my North Dakota images have never been here. About a dozen years ago I switched from film to digital photography, but still print all of my own work, some on canvas, some on paper. Wildlife was my main subject for years, but now I spend about half my time on landscapes.

My approach to wildlife is summed up by these copyrighted words, which appear on the back of every photograph I sell: "All my wildlife is wild. No zoos, no pets or game farm animals. My subjects are free (and, in most cases, more than willing) to flee at any time."



Heidi A. Goldberg Walcott, ND





Master of Fine Arts Associate Professor of Art, Concordia College

Biography

Heidi A. Goldberg lives near Walcott, North Dakota. Goldberg has exhibited works in national and international juried exhibitions, and her works are included in private and public collections throughout the region.

Artist Statement

I have been fascinated by nature and landscape since I was a child. Living in different places and environments really has had a positive impact on me, and this has led me to reflect a lot about how the geography in which one lives affects one's identity. Where I live presently (in the sandhills of southeastern North Dakota) is my sanctuary. I am surrounded by a rich variety of wildlife, landscape, seasons, and weather that awaken my senses and provide me with endless visual inspiration.

I combine source material from observation, memory, association, imagination, and experimentation with my perceptions in order to build works that are multi-layered in concept and technique. I very much enjoy merging the contradictions of the physical and conscious methods of the work with the mysteries of the creative process and my environment.

Guillermo Guardia Grand Forks, ND

Master of Fine Arts Studio Artist

Biography

Guillermo Guardia (Memo) was born in Lima, Peru, in 1975. Guardia came to North Dakota in 2002. He is a studio member of Muddy Waters Clay Center in Grand Forks, where he creates his own art.

From the time he was little, he was influenced by the art made in the Renaissance and by Pre-Columbian cultures. In particular, he loved the work of the Mochica, a civilization that flourished on Peru's northern coast circa 200 BC to 700 AD. This culture is known for its pottery vessels modeled into naturalistic human and animal figures.



Artist Statement

In 2004, I saw my first llama in the United States at a friend's farm in South Dakota. It intrigued me to see llamas in the Dakotas instead of the Andes of Peru, where they are an everyday common sight. Like the llamas, I am not from North Dakota. I am from Peru.

Llamas were brought for a reason, and like them I came to the United States of America for a purpose. Llamas have become a symbol of immigration in my art work. My mad llamas are similar, but different, and as unique as humans. They have different colored hair and eyes to symbolize various national identities. The llamas, strong in numbers, stand united against the fewer, vicious, fat coyotes.



Bill Harbort, a.k.a. Billy Chuck Minot, ND



Master of Fine Arts Professor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Bill Harbort, originally from New York, has for many years called North Dakota home. He is co-founder and co-organizer of NOTSTOCK, Minot State University's signature live arts event that spotlights the arts. Prior to teaching, he worked as a package designer for a major cosmetics company, an art director for a children's educational software company and built a reputation as an award winning automotive artist. He currently exhibits in galleries and museums and is best know for his pop art collage paintings.



Paint-by-numbers, coupons and clip art.... just a few ingredients often found in our popular culture landfill. I am fascinated with each individual ingredient and the infinite messages that can be expressed by combining and juxtaposing them. It is through this process that I discover meaning and express thought. Allusion, suggestion and investigation become an important part of the viewing experience.



Sabrina Hornung Jamestown, ND

Editor-in-chief, High Plains Reader Artist

Biography

Sabrina Hornung was born in Jamestown, North Dakota. Her pieces serve as an ode to the Dakota prairie. Her roots play an integral role to her work.

Hornung received a grant award from the North Dakota Council on the Arts Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program to pursue wycinanki, Polish, and scherenschnitte, German papercutting, and is participating in the North Dakota Council on the Arts' Art for Life program. She has participated in several group and solo exhibitions and has pieces in collections at both the Wurst Bier Hall in Fargo, North Dakota, and the Oskar Hornung Haus and Museum in Stutensee, Germany.

Artist Statement

These works from the series "Trail Dust and Sentiment" celebrate the prairie and its heritage. The mixed media transparencies are influenced by the folk tales and folk ways of the prairie and personal anecdotes, using photographs and vintage ephemera. The use of alternative photo processes became a nontraditional way to express myself with photography. The cyanotype is a Victorian photo process, and is essentially what blueprints are. I used watercolor paper as a support for these pieces and then embellished a few of the images with watercolor pencil. When this body of work was created, I had great hopes that it would travel and generate conversation between multiple generations.





Brian Hushagen Bismarck, ND





Master of Fine Arts Associate Professor, Bismarck State College

Biography

I am Minnesota born, spent the "Wonderbread Years" in Utah, until arriving in North Dakota.

Artist Statement

Art is a process of making meaningful marks. My marks have evolved from those I first made with crayons, to those made with fire. Each substrate be it canvas, clay, paper, stone or wood has its own unique receptivity, feel and look. For the past fourteen years, I have worked primarily in clay. The touch and sensibility, the balance of function and aesthetic that is the world of the potter has been my playground. Potter, as a personal moniker, is perhaps too restrictive, since I also like to build, manipulate and mold clay in manners reflective of forms and textures that are found in the landscapes of my past and present.

Anna Jacobson Wales, ND

Master of Fine Arts Artist in Residence, North Dakota Council on the Arts Artist in the Classroom, Grand Forks Public Schools

Biography

Anna Jacobson grew up on a family-owned organic farm in rural North Dakota where she was encouraged to explore, observe, learn and create. She continues to carry these principles with her as she creates and teaches art. Jacobson believes everyone should have the opportunity to experience art. Art should be part of a balanced and life-long education, providing learners of all ages with the essential skills and knowledge they need to be productive and caring. She also teaches for a variety of schools, state arts councils, art centers and museums.

Artist Statement

My artwork is based on exploration, experimentation and observation. I combine printmaking, the book arts, and painting to create landscapes and skyscapes from the world around me. Rural North Dakota is not readily known for its grand landscape or wildly charismatic people, both often seen as unremarkable. Living on the plains of North Dakota among stoic Norwegians and Germans, I have learned to appreciate the small and subtle details in obscure conversations and the vast rolling plains. I learned a lot about the cycles of plants, the land, and life from the environment around me.





Terry Jelsing Rugby, ND



Artist Statement

My work originates from the abstraction of narrative reflection and formal observance. I view my sculpture, paintings, and drawings as artifacts that portray universal human experience. They are as diverse as the social environments and observations of the human condition from which they emerge. Certain images in my work—the house, the horizon line, animal or human forms—have become icons for human traits or emotion, such as loneliness, confusion, loss, spirituality, humor. What I care about most—what compels me to make new work—is the physical process of engaging in an experience that reveals a deeper connection to life within the context of our time on this planet.

Master of Fine Arts Artist

Biography

North Dakota native Terry Jelsing works in a variety of media to create two and three-dimensional artwork and large public commissions. He's served on numerous national, regional, state and local committees and commissions, and in 2014 was appointed to the North Dakota Council on the Arts board. Jelsing makes art in his Eye in Heart Studio located on his family's homestead near Rugby, North Dakota.



Eric A. Johnson Hillsboro, ND

Master of Fine Arts Artist

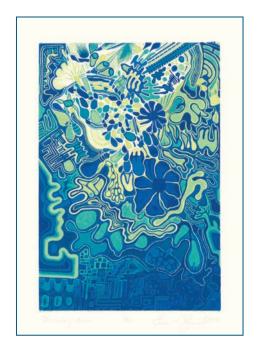
Biography

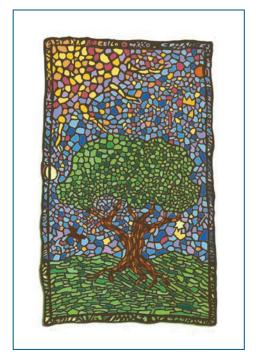
The youngest of six children, Eric A. Johnson was raised on a farm near Embden, North Dakota. An introductory art class at North Dakota State University sparked an interest in creating and Johnson dove in, taking all the art classes he could.

After several years of study Johnson decided to focus on sculpture, but ultimately found that printmaking was his true passion. Over the last eleven years Johnson has created well over 160 prints and has exhibited extensively in regional and national exhibitions, proving to be one of the region's most prolific artists.

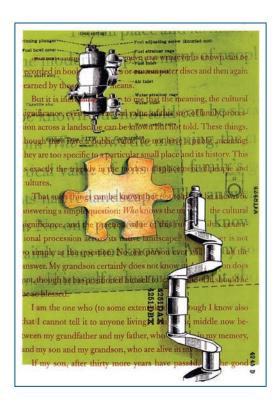
Artist Statement

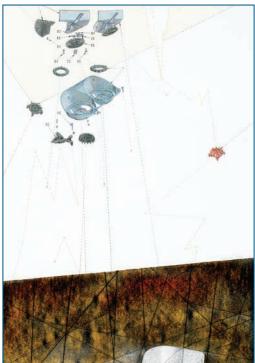
As a child, I continually found myself amazed at the world around me, wanting to conceptualize actual, real items into artwork that made sense to me, and that I hoped would reach others on an emotional and spiritual level. Growing up on a farm in Eastern North Dakota, the vast prairies, sparse but towering tree lines, and pastures full of livestock were a constant wonder to me. Even as a child, I strived to express my wonderment in artwork.











Master of Fine Arts Professor, North Dakota State University (NDSU)

Biography

Kent Kapplinger grew up in Minnesota, but transitioned to NDSU, where he founded the department's Printmaking, Education, and Research Studio (PEARS) and continues as director/master printer. He has received fellowships from the Hungarian Multicultural Center, North Dakota Council on the Arts, The Arts Partnership in North Dakota, Woodstock School of Art in New York, and Vinalhaven Press in Maine. His art has been shown in many individual and group exhibitions and is part of numerous public and corporate collections.

Artist Statement

My work addresses socio-environmental issues and focuses on balance, order, and regeneration initiating dialogue on the quality of life. I consider my work collaborative in nature, inspired by authors, reporters and researchers of environmental and cultural issues interpreted through my own rural-based background.

Adam Kemp Grand Forks, ND

Master of Fine Arts Artist

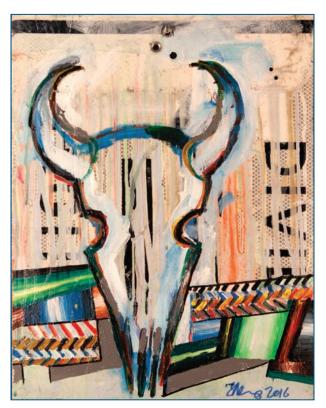
Biography

Adam Kemp was born in a village forty miles northeast of London. Kemp considers himself at least half North Dakotan, having moved to North Dakota in 1987. He is active in teaching children in workshops and art camps creating sculptures with young peoples.

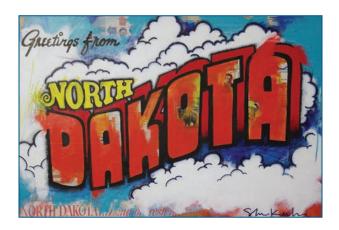
Artist Statement

Adam Kemp began painting cows when Matejcek saw his paintings of black dogs in snow, and told him, "You should come out and paint my cows." Cow paintings are an interesting tie to his earlier work. Kemp did lots of portraits. He says "Cows are immigrants—like me—and we both enjoy the winter. People refer to me as a local artist, which I find quite charming? Are these local cows?"





Steve Knutson Fargo, ND



Bachelor of Science Degree in Art Education Educator, Fargo Public Schools

Biography

Steve Knutson was born in Minot, North Dakota. As a painter and North Dakotan, Knutson feels it is necessary to create artwork that tells a story of whom he is and where he is from.

Artist Statement

I have a slight obsession with maps, and incorporating them in my paintings is something I try to do as often as I can. When I find the perfect map, it tells its own story. How old is it? What part of the state is it representing? What colors will this map bring to the painting? Once these questions are answered, it's time to add the chaos. The chaos in my work is gestural marks, bold colors, and paint drips. I want the calm rolling hills and wheat fields shaken up and reimagined. The final approach to my work is subject matter. What makes up the icons of this state? I want the viewer to feel the past, the grand scale of a sweeping landscape, the majesty of a bison and the energy of a meadowlark.



Heritage Center Art: Land of Fresh Horizons, Mixed media, 36" x 24" \$1,200 Touring Art: For Everyman, Acrylic painting, 36" x 18" \$1,000

Gretchen Kottke Cooperstown, ND

Bachelor of Arts Artist

Biography

Born in Minnesota and raised in Cooperstown, North Dakota, Kottke had worked in the medical field as a healthcare provider and administrator for 30 years. She returned in 1994, and continues to live in Cooperstown and work from her studio.

Artist Statement

The reasons I have made art for decades have the same root, and a conclusion not reached by drawing a straight line. Consequently, my conclusion at this juncture must be that all that has happened has impacted, not only my intentions, but also my experience. In this life journey, I long for ... "the stability of a tradition, which has its roots not only in a historical or cultural past, but also within the innermost being of a man..." I fear change for the sake of change, at the expense of the environment that has been designed to sustain all life on this planet. I have a deep love of the land, and realize that all history seems to be circular rather than straight lined with the intention to sustain life.





Ali La Rock Bismarck, ND



Artist Statement

For me, creating art is a continuous learning process about myself, those around me, and the complexity of this world. Combining humor and playfulness with the intense issues that are involved in trying to understand myself is a natural response to the way I see the world, a place filled with many wonderful feelings and possibilities, yet a very frustrating place full of all sorts of struggles.

With the duality that exists in my work—issues with adult complexity are depicted with a child-like simplicity—I hope to challenge people to see things from multiple perspectives and to look past the surface to become more curious about themselves and the world around them.

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Artist in Residence, North Dakota
Council on the Arts

Biography

Ali LaRock grew up in New Town, North Dakota. In addition to creating and exhibiting her art, Ali enjoys teaching art through various artist in residence opportunities throughout the state, and she has worked with organizations such as the North Dakota Council on the Arts, International Music Camp, and Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre and Art.



Roxi Mathis Minot, ND

Bachelor of Fine Arts Content Specialist, Gordon B. Olson Library, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Roxi spent her childhood growing up on a ranch in the badlands of Amidon, North Dakota. The influence of nature and ranch life makes itself known in her artistic style. Animals, landscapes and organic imagery are prevalent in her work. Her children's book, *Moose on the Loose*, has been successful. Roxi has shown art in various shows, including a solo exhibition at the Taube Museum of Art in Minot.

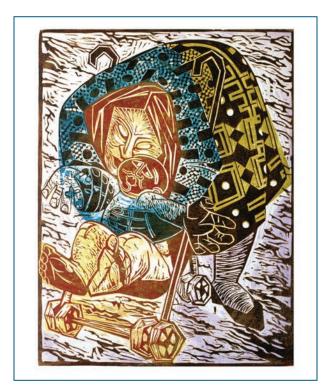
Artist Statement

The qualities that drive my artistic inclination include a vivid imagination, an affinity for the weird, and a varied and restless nature. I am also a sucker for nostalgia. I am inspired by the North Dakota landscape, with which I'm familiar. I particularly enjoy blending my own strange imaginings with the realistic details of nature. I grew up surrounded by the beauty of western North Dakota and I try to express my affection for it in my paintings. If my art holds a purpose for its viewers, I hope that it includes a feeling of openness and a quality of being invited into a friend's home because each piece represents a part of me.





Susan Morrissey Fargo, ND



Master of Fine Arts Artist

Biography

Susan Haas Morrissey was born in Lidgerwood, North Dakota. She lived and worked in four Midwestern states prior to 1996, when she and her husband returned to North Dakota from Chicago to reside and work in Valley City, later moving to Fargo in 2011. Her work has been exhibited in many invitational, solo, and juried regional and national exhibits throughout the country and can be found in university, corporate and private collections.

Artist Statement

The cast of fictional and non-fictional characters who inhabit my paintings, prints, and sculptures, exist on a plane where nonsense and meaningfulness come together. Within their confines, they narrate a broad spectrum of emotion. Though not necessarily obvious, my work most often reflects what is happening about me. Observation is my inspiration, be it of human relationship, animal behavior, or political climate. I enjoy humor and try to maintain a playfulness in my work whether of light or serious intent.

Paul Noot Bismarck, ND

Master of Fine Arts Educator, Bismarck Public Schools

Biography

Paul Noot grew up near Marion, North Dakota. Paul teaches classes for Sleepy Hollow Summer Arts, International Music Camp, and Bismarck Downtown Artists Co-op, of which he is a founding member. Paul has exhibited in the region, is the recipient of several art awards, has been in several regional art exhibits, and is included in public and private collections.

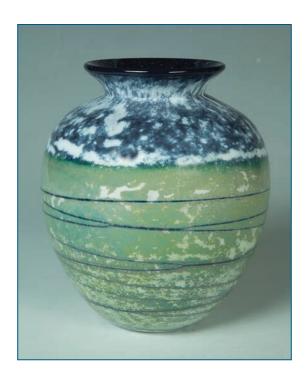
Artist Statement

Meditations, my family, environment and the inner self have become a focus of my artwork. The human spirit and nature are the central subjects of my newest pieces. Symbolism, personal and universal, is also a major component in my thoughts and the design of my art. I use segments of nature, ornamental architecture and the human body to evoke a visceral response that leads to an emotional reaction. The more traditional pieces are studies for the more surreal and abstract pieces. Lately, my work has been a mix of realism, graphics, and graffiti.





Jon Offutt Fargo, ND





Master of Fine Arts Glassblower, House of Mulciber

Biography

Jon Offutt has been practicing the craft of glassblowing and building his own glass blowing equipment since 1983, most recently doing business as House of Mulciber – named for the Roman god of fire. His backyard studio in a neighborhood in Fargo, North Dakota, is a favorite destination for schoolchildren who learn about the physics and beauty of glass, arts enthusiasts who stop by to watch Jon blow heirloom quality vessels, and art advocates who meet to plan educational and fundraising events.

He has served the North Dakota arts community in numerous capacities, including as the Mayor of the virtual arts community New Bohemia, North Dakota, and as a board member of the Lake Agassiz Arts Council and the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists (FMVA). He is currently the director and a participant of the FMVA Studio Crawl.

Artist Statement

I'm a freelance glassblower who's inspired by plumb bobs, fishing bobbers, anchors, bubbles in beer, kites and icicles.

Brian Paulsen Grand Forks, ND

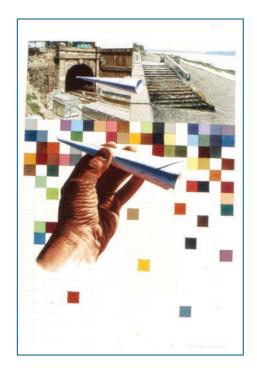
Master of Fine Arts Professor Emeritus, University of North Dakota (UND)

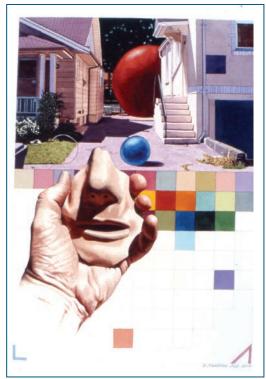
Biography

Brian Paulsen is a Washington transplant to North Dakota. He has been a visiting artist at many universities around the country, and a juror for a number of juried exhibitions. Paulsen has exhibited works in over 1,250 juried group exhibits, 85 solos, and 230 invitational exhibits, and has works in nine print portfolios in the United States, Canada and abroad.

Artist Statement

These works are paintings using two views of places in the Seattle area, plus my hand holding an object. In one instance, the cone is a metaphor for what tourists seek to view, as an older postcard would depict...rather mundane. The color squares are like the excitement one must add to complete the tourist experience. The second version is taken from a photo of the Madrona district, a space and two houses in an area of Seattle. The composition reflects a feeling of crowded homes, unseen people and activities or surprises sensed from their past.





Doug Pfliger Minot, ND



Master of Fine Arts Gallery Manager, Taube Museum of Art Instructor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Doug Pfliger was raised in Hazen, North Dakota. Doug is a long time educator.

Artist Statement

My art tends to have a humorous bent, and I like visual and literal puns and working in themes.



Walter Piehl Minot, ND

Master of Fine Arts Professor, Minot State University (MSU)

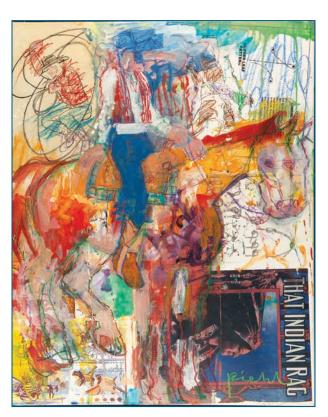
Biography

My father was a rodeo producer and stock contractor. I left the haystack to get an art education. I have returned to my roots to paint Western Americana in a contemporary manner.

Artist Statement

I like art, things Western, and putting on paint, but not necessarily in that order.





Nelda Shrupp Lakota, ND





Master of Fine Arts Artist

Biography

Nelda Schrupp grew up on White Bear Indian Reservation, Carlyle, Saskatchewan, and attended various boarding schools. She immigrated to the US and lives in Lakota, North Dakota. Schrupp has been making her mark in the art world by winning at art shows with her distinctive style. Her works are published in numerous books, newspapers, and periodicals and her art is in many prestigious permanent collections and numerous private collections from coast to coast.

Artist Statement

The rattle is very sacred and used in many private ceremonies like blessing, healing and naming, just to mention a few. Art is very sacred to me as it keeps me close to my culture and to my Creator. In my culture there is no word for art; it simply is a way of life; it is part of everyday living. When you make something, you put your heart and soul into it, and it becomes a part of you. Thus, your own style is created. I need to keep nurturing this creativity to keep it fresh and exciting, so that it can reap the benefits of aesthetic design.

Dan Smith Rolette, ND

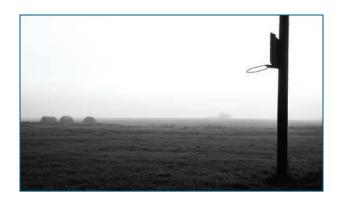
Bachelor of Science Photographer, Educator

Biography

Dan Smith has photographed professionally since 1972, when he was a photo instructor in the United States Army. News photography, sports and commercial work have been a mainstay over the decades, with personal work being the main focus the whole time. Currently an independent photographer, Dan does some commercial work, but concentrates on his personal and fine art images.

Artist Statement

As I observe the world around me I photograph, because I am driven to create. The camera is a tool used to eliminate the distractions, as I try to hone in on what it is that interests me enough to make a finished visual presentation. Light is the main means, as it changes with the days and seasons. Often I will revisit something, because I am looking for the light at a different time, the light to reveal as well as conceal. I am bound by what is in front of the lens and work at distilling it to what I hope is 'the thing itself,' interpreting rather than making a mere recording. The camera enables as one moves past the technical to the interpretive. Often the images say more about me than they do about what I photograph.





Sarah Snavely Bowman, ND



Bachelor of Fine Arts Artist Director, Bowman Regional Public Library

Biography

Sarah Snavely was born and raised in Bowman, North Dakota, and now is a studio artist working in the extreme southwestern corner of North Dakota. Snavely works primarily in clay. She loves its plastic and pliable nature. While the technical nature of engineering this material can be challenging, the imperfect, hand-built qualities continue to interest and inspire her.



Artist Statement

I make animals in clay to connect with the world. I choose animals that are familiar and common yet have a physical or environmental fragility. I use the animal form and pliable clay to convey my ideas about life's difficulties and small—sometimes humorous—moments.

Ryan Stander Minot, ND

Master of Fine Arts Assistant Professor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Originally from the farmlands of northwest Iowa, Ryan is a transplant to central North Dakota. Making use of his theological training, the themes of memory, identity, and place often rise to the fore in his work. As a photographer and printmaker, his work has been exhibited internationally in Canada, South Africa, China, Central and South America; nationally in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Texas; and across the Upper-Midwest.

Artist Statement

Stander's mixed media work builds upon our curious connection to the vernacular photograph. Such photographs are often among the most common household objects and yet, they are often the most precious to us. His work is guided by ideas of archives, questions surrounding the images' loss of narrative context, and the nature of photography itself. Often through interactive installations, Stander invites the viewer to engage the found photographic objects as unique meeting points of past and present, memory and identity, persistence and loss.

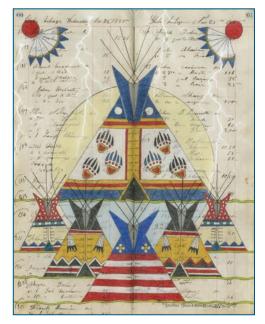






Butch Chunderhawk Bismarck, ND





Bachelor of Science Tribal Arts Instructor, United Tribes Technical College (UTTC)

Biography

Butch Thunderhawk is a member of the Standing Rock Lakota/Dakota Nation. Thunderhawk's curatorial work includes a Harvard fellowship at the Peabody Museum-Harvard University, where he was involved in the Lewis and Clark Exhibit and a Ledger Art Exhibit. In addition, Thunderhawk has been contracted to produce art and replica art for museums and institutions.

Artist Statement

I am a very spiritual person who loves and enjoys my relationship with nature. My art gives me a sense of enjoyment, peace, and respect for all living things. Creating artwork makes me feel accomplishment and honor, to honor my ancestors who have given me inspiration. Art is history; all artists share their historical and personal life with others. Art opens a person's heart and feelings to others, to share and enjoy the spirit of creativity and imagination.

Monica Eininenko Williston, ND

Bachelor of Science Photographer

Biography

Born and raised in North Dakota, Monica has allowed her hobby of photography to become a passion, and she creates art inspired by the things around her. Practicing her craft has allowed her to learn different photographic techniques and explore night photography and long exposures.



Artist Statement

Photography has always been and will always be part of my life. The support from my family and community regarding this work has been astounding. Art is a way for me to express things I cannot put into words. The images I present convey ideas, feelings, memories and so much more. It is important to me to preserve in time instances and moments that would otherwise become a distant memory.



Avis Veikley Minot, ND





Master of Music Director, Northwest Art Center Instructor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Avis Veikley grew up on her grandfather's homestead near Glenburn, North Dakota, and continues to be a partner in the family farm with her three nephews. She has studied painting and drawing at the Woodstock School of Art in Woodstock, New York, Art Students League of Denver, and Art Students League of New York.

Artist Statement

I'm an unapologetic realist. No hidden agenda; I just paint. I like color and I like juicy paint. I see subtle beauty, and attempt to touch it with a paintbrush. Both sets of my grandparents homesteaded in North Dakota; my parents, I and my siblings, my husband, and my child were born here. I came into being out of the Dakota wind, soil, and snow. I paint what I know, and I know North Dakota like I know myself.

Grano is a hamlet in north central North Dakota. Once a thriving farming community, it is slowly reverting to prairie. Through the disappearances, one by one, of its neighbors, this house has acquired a really big back yard.

Out Loud shows a young woman, comfortable in her own skin, speaking—without words—the message of her generation. I believe there is worth in applying the work of a human hand to the portrayal of a human soul. Portraiture will never go out of style; each generation adds a never-before, never-again face to the human parade.

Greg Vettel Thompson, ND

Bachelor of Arts Exhibition Coordinator, Registrar, Publications photographer, North Dakota Museum of Art

Biography

This rural Thompson, North Dakota, native has spent over fifty years studying and repairing all types of mechanisms from motorcycles to telescopes to computers to televisions. This former automobile, motorcycle, and truck technician has transformed his love of machines into sculpture and prints made of and inspired by discarded Harley Davidson parts, which he has exhibited extensively throughout the region and which are in private collections across the country. Professionally, he has served as three time President of the North Dakota Art Gallery Association, and is a nine year board member and four year President of the Grand Forks County Historical Society, where he was instrumental in restoring the 1950's Lustron all-metal house.

Artist Statement

I explore the inner workings of mechanized, mobile machines, utilizing worn-out steel machine parts that are normally enclosed, hidden, and ignored by the vast majority of the public who never consider or care about how machines work. My work is influenced by my love of motorcycles, mechanisms and my experience as an internal combustion technician. My theme is transportation machines; specifically motorcycle parts from the oldest American-made motorcycle in current production. I prefer mechanical subjects—sharp, angular geometric forms and shapes with high contrast features and textures.





Jerry Walter Noonan, ND



Artist Statement

Winter's beauty was everywhere, and the sundogs were out in all their glory. The midday sundogs were as beautiful as ever. I had to lay on the frozen ground with a brisk northwest wind; sundogs require very cold conditions, and ice crystals form directly from water vapor. The scenes, sometime surreal to me, are meaningful. They show winter in all of its beauty. The colors of the early morning sun need to be seen to be appreciated. These pictures capture all I say about the "Beauty on the Northern Plains."

Associate of Art Photographer

Biography

Jerry Walter is an avid photographer who never goes anywhere without his camera. Of North Dakota, he says "This is God's country." He refers to his work as "Beauty on the Northern Plains." He says, "I like to show off North Dakota and brag about how pretty our state and the Northern Plains are." Jerry's work has been presented to several senators, appears on various websites, and is featured on numerous weather sites, magazines and calendars.



Linda Whitney Valley City, ND

Master of Fine Arts Professor Emeritus, Valley City State University (VCSU)

Biography

North Dakota native, Linda Whitney's mezzotints have traveled throughout the world and been exhibited widely.

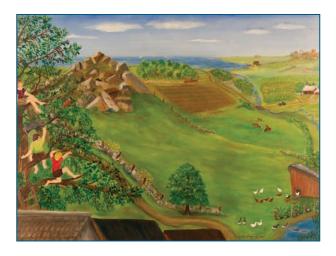
Artist Statement

The coming of the Europeans to this Turtle Island brought about the near annihilation of the people of this region. These historic and grand cultures were all but decimated in a few short years, and those left standing lost much of their tradition, religion, and freedom. But, the ancient voices were not silenced and the drumbeats are strong again. The celebration of the Powwow is one public declaration of the strength and tenacity of the indigenous cultures of this continent. The magnificent regalia is a reminder of this complex history and a symbol of the texture of contemporary times. Dancing is a cultural state of mind!





Elizabeth Woods Minot, ND





Bachelor of Fine Arts Artist

Biography

Elizabeth Woods was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1928, and she found her way to North Dakota in 1983. Concentrating on art late in life, at the age of 66, Elizabeth made up for lost time participating in a plethora of commissions, galleries, museums, and shows. She also teaches art to a variety of students. Working in her preference of oil, Elizabeth's folk style works harken back to the past 76 years of her life, preserving events gone by.

Artist Statement

In partial retirement, with the beauty and solitude of the prairie, my desire to paint surfaced. Life has been an adventure. It still is, but now it is tempered by an aging body and the dos and don'ts and responsibilities of adult life. I want to leave a legacy and a history for future generations.

Laura Youngbird Breckenridge, MN

Master of Arts Director of Native American Art Programs, Plains Art Museum

Biography

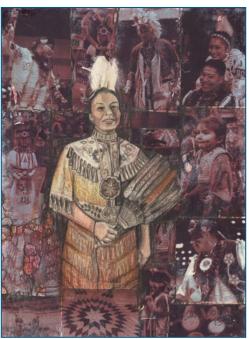
Laura Youngbird, artist and art educator, works with a variety of mixed media. She is the current president of the Three River Arts Council in the twin towns of Wahpeton, North Dakota and Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Artist Statement

I love to draw people. And yet I deliberately left the faces off the people in my work for many years. A few years ago I started a series of portraits of Native artists.

Winona and Jason Kingbird are two very talented and gifted artists, whom I worked with at Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton. Their family danced and sang. Winona made all of their regalia. They shared their skills and talents with the students at the school for many years.





Curator

Linda @lson Minot, ND



Master of Fine Arts Professor, Minot State University (MSU)

Biography

Linda Olson was raised in rural McHenry County, North Dakota. Olson serves as the director of the North Dakota Art Gallery Association. She is well known for her rock art documentation, and several of her artworks have been included in publications.

Artist Statement

Viewing ancient artworks in museums, as well as additional research, led to a series of homage pieces based on the works in museums. Layering imagery from other ages reinterprets ancient objects, reinventing their validity to speak to us today.

North Dakota Council on the Arts

It is the mission of the North Dakota Council on the Arts to promote, preserve and perpetuate the arts in North Dakota.

Our promise is to use the power of the arts to enhance the vitality of North Dakota through:

- Cultural Traditions in North Dakota
- Pre K-12 Academic Success
- Accessibility for All Citizens
- Economic Development
- Quality Art Experiences
- Support of Artists and Arts Organizations
- Arts programs designed to promote wellness

The North Dakota Council on the Arts operates with an approximate annual budget of \$1.5 million through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and an appropriation from the North Dakota State Legislature. Over 75 percent of the NDCA budget is awarded to organizations and individuals through various grant programs.

In addition to grant programs, the North Dakota Council on the Arts also supports the State Tree Lighting Ceremony each December, a biennial State Arts Conference along with the biennial Governor's Awards for the Arts, quarterly featured artists in the Capitol building, a yearly exhibit at the North Dakota State Heritage Center, Poetry Out Loud, Art for Life, Artist in Residence program with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation department, and the Trails and Rails program. The NDCA also partners with a variety of state agencies and non-profit organizations throughout the state in the presentation and support of arts-related programs.



This project is supported in part by a grant from the NDCA, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

North Dakota Art Gallery Association

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association (NDAGA) is a nonprofit corporation organized in 1975. Administered by a board of gallery member representatives, the Association provides professional training opportunities, while coordinating common information and services for gallery personnel and the Association members. The North Dakota Art Gallery Association recognizes and honors outstanding contemporary, folk, and traditional visual artists.



This project is supported in part by the North Dakota Art Gallery Association.

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association will:

- Organize a support network for isolated rural;
 as well as urban, art communities;
- Foster the public's appreciation and understanding of the arts;
- Coordinate and disseminate information;
- Provide common services to organizations engaged in cultural activities; and
- Sponsor cultural performances and fine art exhibitions.

NDAGA is sponsored in part with funds from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Thanks also go to member support and to the many sponsors of our traveling exhibition program.

The North Dakota Art Gallery Association's headquarters are located in the Art Department at Minot State University.

Starion Bank

The history of Starion Bank is a story of changing for the times, while staying steadfast in its values.

It began in 1969 when Frank and JoAndrea Larson purchased First National Bank of Oakes



and First National Bank & Trust Company in Ellendale the next year. Twenty years later, the Larsons purchased the well-established First Southwest Bank of Mandan in 1989.

In 1993, the company expanded across the river by purchasing a bank in downtown Bismarck. Two years later, the Larsons' banks merged into a single state-chartered bank and took the name First Southwest Bank. The company added new branches in Bismarck-Mandan throughout the 1990s.

Aspiring to expand, the company looked for a new name that would grow with it over time and across geographies, and encompass its full line of services including banking, mortgage, insurance and investments. In 2003, the name Starion was chosen.

Over the next decade, the search for new markets led to Madison, Wis., where there are currently three branches, as well as to Fargo, Dunseith, Rolla and Bottineau.

Starion's story is one of changing with the times while keeping the ways of doing business that never need changing. A person always answers the phone, experienced bankers are empowered to make decisions locally and every staff member strives to build lasting relationships with customers, helping them achieve their dreams.

In small towns like that where Starion began, you are only as good as your reputation, and your reputation is only as good as your actions. That's the kind of accountability Starion Bank still embraces today.







