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Tarble Arts Center Newsletter June-July 1994

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Tarble Arts Center

Newsletter June/July 1994



EXHIBITIONS

THE AMISH OF ILLINOIS

-- through June 5, Brainard Gallery

This documentary photography exhibit explores the inner world of Amish life. Accompanying the color photographs are descriptions, Amish sayings, and Bible passages. In respect of Amish beliefs the exhibit's photographs only depict scenes and objects from the everyday life of the Amish, not individuals. The Amish are opposed to being photographed because of the scriptural commandment against making graven images. And because the Amish value humility and modesty, they view photography as a form of pridefulness and vanity. This exhibit was developed for the Tarble by folklorist and photographer Sherry Pardee. The *Amish of Illinois* exhibit was made possible through support provided by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

ILLINOIS FOLK ARTS FROM THE COLLECTION

-- June 4 - August 14

This annual summer exhibition is drawn from the Tarble's rich collection of Folk Arts, and presents a cross-section of the collection's media, traditions, and styles. Most of the works in the exhibition are contemporary, from eastcentral and southeastern Illinois, and reflect the fact that the settlers of eastern and southern Illinois were both subsistence farmers from the Upland South and commercial farmers from the Yankee North. Representing objects coming from the Upland Southern tradition are woven rag rugs, bi-lobed baskets, and bent-stick furniture. From the Yankee tradition are hooked rugs, baskets done on crossed-hoop frames, fish decoys, and apple-head dolls. The intermingling of folk traditions in this region was due in part because the National Road, the first major east-west overland thoroughfare, terminated in Vandalia. Commemorating the National Road is a scale replica by Lodge Grant of an 1830's log tavern, the type licensed by the state along main thoroughfares as rest stops for travelers, and Ferd Metten's version of the *Madonna of the Trail* statue.

Metten's carving is based on the full-scale stone statues placed along the old National Road (now U.S. Highway 40) to honor pioneer women.

Some folk arts in the collection, like Metten's carvings and constructions, are less traditional. They fall into a special category of folk art in which the tradition is still in evidence but transcended through personal artistic expression. Objects that fall into this category include Metten's work, the embroidered quilts of Cora Meek, the carvings by Art Walker, and Christian Holtkamp's Torchon bobbin lace. Other objects seem to defy categorization, such as the First Lady Dolls by Leta C. Whitacre. New to the Folk Arts Collection are Amish pieces collected through the *Amish of Illinois* project, as located and recommended by the project's folklorist, Sherry Pardee. These objects include a bent wood rocker, a bonnet, and an antique quilt, rug, and cushion. The quilt is circa 1910, and was made for Elsie Kauffman of Douglas County as a coming-of-age "quilt from home" by her mother, Katie Kauffman. The quilt, rug and cushion were acquired from Elsie's daughter, whose name is also Katie Kauffman.

SELECTIONS FROM THE WATSON POSTER COLLECTION

-- June 4 - August 14, Blaw-Knox & Heath Candy Galleries

The *Leland Watson Poster Collection* is made up of posters from plays and performances for which the late Leland "Lee" Watson was the lighting director. Included are posters from the New York Broadway and off-Broadway premiers of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*. Beyond serving as a visual chronicle of Watson's career, the posters are cultural artifacts that indicate the aesthetics of the period they come from through both the productions they announce and their graphic design. In both respects the collection runs the gamut from Modern classics, such as the premier of Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten* with poster art by Ben Shahn, to the forgotten like *The Night Circus* with art that would look at home on a pulp fiction paperback. Not all of the poster artists are identified. Besides Shahn the only other artist of note is caricaturist Al Hirshfeld who designed the poster for *Portifino*. It is interesting to note that photography is most commonly used in posters advertising dance productions.

A Charleston native, Leland Watson (1926-1989) was the son of Dallas and Hazel Watson, also of Charleston. After graduating from the Training School at Eastern, Watson attended Eastern Illinois State Teachers College for one year before joining the military. He later received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Iowa and his Masters Degree from Yale University. His career as a lighting designer and director included forty Broadway productions, over sixty operas, and more than 400 productions off-Broadway and at regional theaters. He received the Obie Award for best off-Broadway design in 1960. Watson was also a lighting designer for the CBS television network and several other television concerns for twelve

years. In addition to his work as a lighting designer and director, Watson was a professor at Purdue University and the author of two books, *Theatrical Lighting Practice*, with Joel Rubin, and the *Handbook of Lighting Design* which was completed shortly before his death in 1989. The *Lelana Watson Poster Collection* was donated to the Tarble Arts Center permanent collection from Watson's estate through the efforts of Hazel Watson.

EVENTS

SUMMER HOURS FOR THE TARBLE ARTS CENTER

-- May 31 - August 14, open 10am-4pm Tues. - Sat., 1-4pm Sun.;
closed Mondays & July 4th

The Tarble will go on a summer schedule for open hours beginning May 31st. The office will also go on summer hours of 8am-4pm, which conforms to the summer schedule set for the other offices and departments at Eastern. Group tours and special events will still be available for scheduling at other than open hours upon request. Normal operating hours will resume on August 15th.

EIU ANNUITANTS MEETING: MARY SHULL RECITAL

-- June 10, 8:30am-noon

Mary Shull will present a piano recital for the EIU Annuitants' annual meeting.

VIOLIN RECITAL: ALICIA DOUDNA

-- June 10, 7:30pm

RECEPTION: HAZEL & DALLAS WATSON IN CONJUNCTION WITH SELECTIONS FROM THE WATSON POSTER COLLECTION

-- June 12, 2-5pm

This public reception, held in conjunction with the exhibition *Selections from the Watson Poster Collection*, is sponsored by the Eastern Illinois University Foundation to honor the Watson's on their seventieth wedding anniversary. Leland Watson was the son of Dallas and Hazel Watson. The collection was donated to the Tarble through the efforts of Hazel Watson.

For the reception Eva Pearl Yeadon, international opera singer, and her sister Marith Willis, who has appeared in Broadway musicals, will perform love songs from the turn of the century to the present day. Yeadon and Willis, daughters of the late Ralph and Helen Betty McGinnis of Charleston, have been featured in several EIU Music scholarship benefit concerts. Ms. Yeadon has performed in Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, and Switzerland, and continues to tour regularly with Opera and Concert International, Ltd., opera agency of London, England. She has also

performed on television in the United States and in Europe, and is featured on four recordings. Currently Yeadon teaches voice and directs opera workshops at Southwestern Missouri University.

Willis has starred in Broadway musicals all over the world, including Europe and Japan. She also performed regularly with the Honolulu Symphony and is currently a featured soloist with the Cantate Carlisle in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Assisting Yeadon and Willis will be Jo Ellen Mizener-Kinzeler of Charleston. Kinzeler has been a featured performer for the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Tampa, Florida, and a guest artist in the Philippines and Austria. She currently teaches private voice and piano, and is the organist/choirmaster for the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston.

CLASSES: SUMMER OF EXCELLENCE

The following *Summer of Excellence* classes will be held at the Tarble:

Moving With Music

-- June 20 - 30, 11:15am-12:15pm, Brainard Gallery
For ages 4 to 6, taught by Madeline Ignazito

Illustrating With Artists

-- June 20 - 30, 9am-10:30am, Classroom
For ages 8 and up, taught by Pat Mahler

Faces & Stories

-- June 20 - 30, 10:45am-12:15pm, Classroom
For ages 7 and up, taught by Pat Mahler

Musical Keyboarding

-- June 27 - 30, 1pm-2pm, Brainard Gallery
For ages 8 to 12, taught by Madeline Ignazito

Kitchen Kapers

-- July 5 - 14, 9am-10am, Classroom
For ages 6 to 9, taught by Angie Gentry

Celebrating Me!!

-- July 18 - 28, 9am-10am, Classroom
For ages 4 and 5, taught by Elizabeth Cox

For complete information or to register, contact the School of Adult & Continuing Education at 217/581-5116. Copies of the *Summer of Excellence* schedule are available at the Tarble Arts Center Desk.

TARBLE ARTS CENTER CLOSED: JULY 4TH

-- July 4th

EIU MUSIC CAMP: SYNTHESIZER RECITALS

-- *July 15, 6:30pm*

The students of Dawn Miller will perform; sponsored by the EIU Music Department.

EIU MUSIC CAMP: CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

-- *10:30am, July 16*

Sponsored by the EIU Music Department.

ART CAMP CLOSING RECEPTIONS

-- *2:30-3:30pm, July 16 & 23*

Art campers and their parents will enjoy refreshments and review some of the work completed during the camp; sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

EIU MUSIC CAMP: JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT

-- *10:30am, July 23*

Sponsored by the EIU Music Department.

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

-- *April 15 - May 15*

Supporting Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Auburt North
Charles E. Pettypoole

Family Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Bidle
Mr. & Mrs. Mac Corley

Individual Patrons

Dawn Miller
Robert A. Jacob

FROM THE CURATOR

I am pleased to announce that an Arts-In-Education grant for the spring of 1995 has been tentatively awarded to the Tarble Arts Center, barring no reductions in state funding for the Illinois Arts Council. The grant money will be used to sponsor a one month residency with Carbondale artist Kathleen Ensor, and will involve four area schools as well as communities within the Tarble's service area. During the residency, Ms. Ensor will present opaque painting techniques through both hands-on experiences and slide lectures. In addition, the Tarble is slated to exhibit a selection of Ms. Ensor's paintings in the Brainard Gallery during March and April of

1995. She writes of her approach to teaching, "I am not interested in the type of education which forces students to render accurately only visual experiences. I work to pull together other experiences, through all the senses, as well as imagination, fantasy and other art forms...emphasizing a thoughtful yet non-restrictive approach to painting and drawing." Ms. Ensor holds an MFA in Painting from SIU-Carbondale, and has exhibited in both the United States and Canada.

The *12th International Children's Exhibition* was the largest ever, including works by 248 area school children along with 37 works by children from China, Peru, Nigeria, and Hungary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank several individuals whose assistance with the exhibition was greatly appreciated. First, to Dr. William Hill for the continued support of his office throughout the history of the exhibition; to Dana Deffenbaugh, Toni Satterfield, and Lisa Karmazinas, acting as co-coordinators of the reception program; to the numerous volunteers who assisted with the reception on May 22nd; and finally, to the entire Tarble Arts Center staff for their efforts in installing the show and the various other tasks involved with the reception program. It couldn't have been done without you!

--Kit Morice

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Long-time Tarble Arts Center patrons and supporters David and Susanna Buchanan are soon to leave the area. Over the years Dave has served on various Tarble committees, most notably the Program Committee, and has been a vocal supporter of the Tarble at Eastern. Sue has served on the Tarble's Collections Committee. Both Dave and Sue have been Tarble members, regular Chamber Music Series subscribers, and have provided a purchase award for each of the 5th through 9th *Watercolor: Illinois* competitive exhibitions. Their participation and support will be greatly missed. I know I speak for all of the Tarble's constituents when I say that we wish them well with their new ventures in Pennsylvania.

The Illinois Arts Alliance has recently begun a new effort, The Advocacy Project (TAP), in an effort to have funding for the Illinois Arts Council restored to its 1991 level. Cuts over the last three years have reduced funding by more than four million dollars -- a 30% reduction that has resulted in grant amounts lessened, and some groups not receiving any grant funding at all this year, including the Charleston Area Arts Council. This reduction has affected arts programming all around the state, and especially in down-state Illinois where the majority of grant funds go. Illinois ranks 37th in the nation in per capita state support for the arts at an annual rate of 67 cents per person. The Illinois Arts Alliance seeks to

achieve a level of at least one dollar per person. If you would like to know more about TAP and the Illinois Arts Alliance, please pick up one of the informational brochures at the Tarble's front desk. If you would like for your voice to be heard, call the State Capitol switchboard at 217/782-2000 and ask to be connected to your legislator's office. To bring the Arts Council's funding back up to the 1991 level, ask you legislator to increase the Illinois Arts Council appropriation to \$12 million in SB 1775.

A national search has been initiated to fill the position of Curator of Education. The deadline to apply is July 15th. For a copy of the Position Announcement, please contact the Tarble office. If all goes according to schedule I will be able to announce the new curator in the August newsletter.

As we drift into summer, please remember that the Tarble will be closing at 4pm every day (except for closed days of Mondays and July 4th) through August 14th. Please plan accordingly when showing the building off to visitors or visiting on your own.

-- Michael Watts

UPCOMING FOR AUGUST

Joel Feldman: Woodcuts & Wood Sculpture -- August 20 - October 2

Mexico/United States Printmaking -- August 20 - October 2

New Faculty Reception -- August 21, 2-4pm

Carl Wilen Solo Exhibition (working title) -- August 26 - October 9

Staff: Michael Watts, Director Kit Morice, Acting Curator of Education
David Pooley, Registrar Fran Wittenberg, Secretary

James K. Johnson, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Volunteer Coordinators:

Maggie Hollowell & Corrine Joyner, Docent Education Program

Victoria Woollen-Danner, Gift Shop

Barbara Watts, Sales/Rental Gallery



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Tarble Arts Center

College of Arts & Humanities
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

Open Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 1- 4pm; Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free unless otherwise noted. For information or to schedule a group tour, telephone 217/581-ARTS(2787). The Tarble Arts Center is located on South Ninth Street at Cleveland Avenue, on the Eastern Illinois University campus. The Tarble Arts Center is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions.

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