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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

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Winter 1990

**South Dakota Art Museum, Winter 1989-90**

South Dakota Art Museum

South Dakota Art Museum

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## Exhibitions

**Costume as Communication**, an exhibition of textile arts by native people of Central and South America, continues through February 25. The illustrated catalogue helps explain the history, technology, and symbolism of the material, but the articles speak for themselves as works of art. The exhibition was organized by the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University and its national tour was arranged by Origins of Minneapolis.

**Kenny Kinyon Paintings**, the first showing by the Plankinton, South Dakota, artist at the Museum, continues through February 25. Acknowledging the influence of Giorgio de Chirico and Edward Hopper, Kinyon's commonplace scenes are charged with mystery and melancholy. He is a 1987 graduate of the University of South Dakota and has shown most recently at the Oscar Howe Art Center in Mitchell.

**Greene and Greene Architecture**, March 4-25, is a photographic essay by the late William Current on the residential architecture of brothers Charles and Henry Greene. After study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, they established a practice in Pasadena, California, in 1894. The popular California bungalow became a masterpiece of fitted wood and stained glass in their hands, culminating in the 1908 Gamble House in Pasadena. This exhibition was organized by Curatorial Assistance of Pasadena.

**James Kielkopf Paintings**, March 4-25, is the first showing at the Museum by the St. Paul artist since his participation in the Museum's 1972 *Northwestern Biennial*. Kielkopf is a native of St. Paul, and studied at the Minneapolis School of Art, Grand Marais Art Colony, and Skowhegan



William Current photograph of Gamble House stairway, Pasadena, from *Greene and Greene Architecture*.

School of Art. His pristine abstractions have been shown at such museums as the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and Dallas Museum of Art.

Support for exhibitions at the Museum is provided by Members, with special support this season from Gerald and Olive Brown of San Diego, California, Dakota Granite Company of Milbank,

and Friends of the Arts in Brookings. General support this season has been provided by the Institute of Museum Services, a federal agency, and the South Dakota Arts Council, a state agency with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, South Dakota Community Foundation, and the South Dakota Legislature.

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Calumet from *Lakota Art Treasures*.



Harvey Dunn's "Dust Storm," 1930s. Oil on panel, 10 x 14".  
Gift of Tim and Peggy Brown.

## Touring Exhibitions Program

**Lakota Art Treasures**, a new exhibition organized from the Museum collections, begins its tour of South Dakota April 2-23 at the University of South Dakota's Coyote Student Center in Vermillion. Among the 25 objects of Lakota or Western Sioux art in this exhibition is a richly decorated calumet or ceremonial pipe that was given by the Leader Charge family to Claude Whitlock in 1936, when he became superintendent of the Rosebud Reservation. The catlinite bowl has black steatite and lead inlays, and the ash stem is decorated with dyed porcupine quills, ribbons, and the skin with feathers from a mallard drake.

The exhibition comes in cases on free-standing partitions with their own lights, suitable for showing in banks, libraries, and other non-traditional but secure spaces. The \$500 fee for a 21-day showing includes insurance, transportation, installation assistance, illustrated brochures, teacher's guide, and press kit. To schedule this exhibition for your community, contact the Museum at 688-5423.

**Renaissance on the Missouri**, a photographic essay with text on the magnificent 1910 South Dakota Capitol Building and its murals in Pierre, continues its tour during the 1990-91 season. It comes with its own free-standing partitions and lights, and the \$250 fee for a 21-day showing includes insurance, transportation, installation assistance, and a press kit.

## Recent Acquisitions

The Museum's collection of work by Harvey Dunn (1884-1952), the son of South Dakota homesteaders who was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Design, has grown to 93 works with recent gifts and purchases. Dona Brown of Huron, Eric and Ruth Brown of Lexington, Nebraska, and Tim and Peggy Brown of San Francisco, California, have given four paintings and seven drawings by Dunn to the Museum. Dona Brown is a charter member and former president of the Museum Board. Eric and Tim Brown are the sons of her brother, Max.

Three 1935 block prints by Dunn were purchased with funds from the Iverson Endowment, which was established in 1974 by Dr. and Mrs. Carrold Iverson of Ames, Iowa, to help the Museum acquire work by South Dakota artists.

Seven works by Native American artists of this region have been acquired. A painting by Arthur Amiotte (Sioux) of Custer was purchased from the *Art for a New Century* exhibition with Iverson

Endowment funds. Three paintings by Oscar Howe (Sioux, 1915-83) were given by Mr. and Mrs. Max Brown of Sanibel, Florida. A painting by Robert Penn (Omaha-Sioux) of Vermillion was given by Dona Brown. Two paintings by Calvin Tyndall (Omaha) of Macy, Nebraska, were given by Ron Voleskie of Huron. The Museum now has 259 works by Native American artists and another 421 on long-term loan. Oscar Howe, who is considered to be one of the most important Native American artists of the 20th century, is now represented by 22 paintings.

In addition to Amiotte's painting, works by Larry Anderson of Vermillion, Jeannie French of Spearfish, Jim Gibson of Aberdeen, and Signe Stuart and Michael Warrick of Brookings were acquired from the Museum's *Art for a New Century* Centennial exhibition with Iverson Endowment funds.

Other acquisitions of work by South Dakota artists include a painting by Alice Berry of Brookings, purchased with Iverson Endowment funds from





Jeannie French's "House of Shelter," 1988. Painted ceramic, 21" high. Iverson Endowment Fund purchase from *Art for a New Century*.



Crow eagle feather headdress from Ben Reifel Collection.

## In Memoriam

Ben Reifel, a member and past president of the Museum Board, died January 2, in Sioux Falls. He was 83.

Dr. Reifel was born 1906 near Parmelee on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the eldest of five sons of William and Lucy Burning Breast Reifel. After earning a degree in agriculture at South Dakota State University in 1932, he served with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in various positions, including superintendent of the Fort Berthold and Pine Ridge Agencies in the Dakotas and director of the Area Office in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

He served in the Army during World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel, and after the war earned a doctorate in public administration at Harvard University. During 1961-71 he served in the U.S. Congress, where his achievements included location of EROS Data Center in South Dakota.

He married SDSU classmate Alice Johnson of Erwin. Their daughter, Loyce Reifel Anderson, lives in Holyoke, Colorado. After Alice's

her recent one-person exhibition at the Museum. Two paintings by Larry Green of Madison and a painting by Henry Rezac (1872-1951), who was active in Sioux Falls and did the murals in the old Egyptian Theatre, were given by Mr. and Mrs. L. Don Andrews of Sioux Falls. Don is a member and past president of the Museum Board.

A 1963 intaglio print, "Carlyle," by Sidney Chafetz of Columbus, Ohio, was given by Dr. Larry Stine of Brookings, the third print by Chafetz in the collection. Dr. Stine is the former director of theatre and associate dean of Arts and Science at South Dakota State University.

The Portuguese wool carpet that was commissioned in 1936 for Casa Marghab in Funchal, Madeira, was given by Vera Way Marghab of Watertown. The carpet, 33 x 12 feet, is based on an antique Oushak design from Anatolia, and is now in the Museum's central gallery. Mrs. Marghab is a member of the Board and donor of the Marghab Collection of hand-embroidered linens from Madeira.



Oscar Howe's "Grass Dancer," 1960s. Casein on paper, 25 x 10". Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Max Brown.



Ben Reifel on the Rosebud Reservation, about 1927. Photo courtesy of Phyllis Bartling.



Ben Reifel.

death, he married Frances Ryland of DeSmet, who now lives in Lake Norden.

Reifel's first act on the Museum Board was to loan his collection of Native American art to the Museum, which until then had no tribal art collections. As he predicted, his collection soon attracted others, and today the Museum has nine collections of Native American art, which include 680 objects.

The masterpiece of Reifel's collection is a turn of the century Crow eagle feather headdress, given to him by Henry Kills Warrior at Oglala, South Dakota, in 1935. Two of a golden eagle's tail feathers are symmetrical center feathers, believed to be the special repository of the eagle's essence and power, and three center feathers are usually used in making a headdress. In this Crow headdress, however, there are seven center feathers, making it a particularly powerful and ostentatious piece. In addition, all but the tips of the feather vanes have been removed and the shafts have been wrapped with dyed porcupine quills, an unusual and spectacular treatment.

Dr. Reifel had an eye for quality in art. While director of the Aberdeen Area Office, he authorized the purchase of paintings for the spaces by a little-known high school art teacher in Pierre, Oscar Howe, believing that Howe had great potential. Those paintings, now at the Museum thanks to Reifel's efforts, are among the finest by an artist who is now considered a master.

## Karen York Leaves Museum

Karen York, assistant to the director at the Museum since 1987, will leave at the end of February to become marketing director of a firm that produces computer based presentations, Demographics of Birmingham, Alabama. Among York's major contributions at the Museum was the revitalization of the touring exhibitions program, with her most successful tour being *The South*

*Dakota Collection*, which was shown in Avon, Belle Fourche, Canton, Chamberlain, Faulkton, Hot Springs, Huron, Mobridge, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Sturgis, Timber Lake, Vermillion, Watertown, and Yankton. Her colleagues and trustees wish her well in her new endeavor. A national search for her replacement is underway.

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and Christmas days.

Susan Richards, Serials Librarian  
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