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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Fall 1999

The South Dakota Art Museum News, Fall 1999

South Dakota Art Museum

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Construction

*A place for people,
art and action*

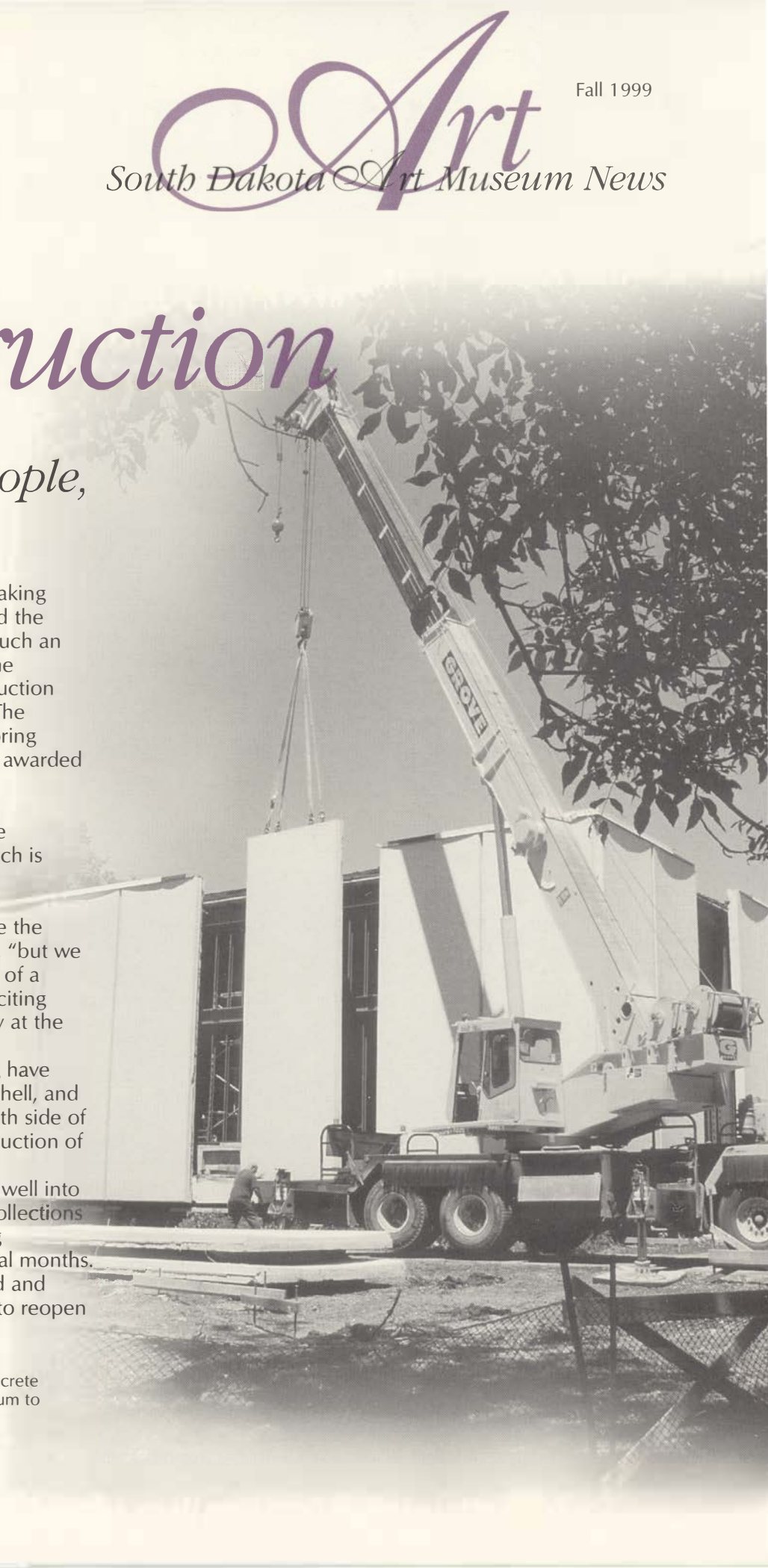
Although the ceremonial groundbreaking back in September of 1998 delivered the pomp and circumstance worthy of such an occasion, it doesn't compare with the excitement of actually seeing construction equipment onsite at the Museum! The bidding process was finalized this spring when the construction contract was awarded to Gray Construction Company of Watertown, South Dakota.

In early May, work started on the demolition phase of the project, which is currently running ahead of schedule according to Museum director, Lynn Verschoor. "It's heartbreaking to see the demolition," Verschoor commented, "but we realize that this is just the first phase of a project that will provide so many exciting opportunities for growth and activity at the South Dakota Art Museum."

The walls of the original building have been stripped down to the outside shell, and ground has been cleared on the south side of the Museum to make way for construction of the 8,555-square-foot addition.

Construction is projected to last well into the summer of 2000. Moving the collections back into the building and preparing exhibitions will take several additional months. Barring complications, the renovated and expanded Art Museum is expected to reopen late in the year 2000.

A crane is used to remove two exterior concrete panels from the south side of the Art Museum to make way for the new addition.



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1999 Fall # 33216349



Outreach to Children

Alex Cooley, 5,
creates her own
original design.

Increased involvement with children and families, and better accessibility to the community are both priorities on the list of long-range objectives for the South Dakota Art Museum. Staff and volunteers from the Art Museum helped to fulfill these objectives by taking part in two recent community events, the Brookings Summer Arts Festival and the Fifth Grade Career Fair.

In cooperation with the Community Cultural Center, the Art Museum provided children's art activities at a booth in the Children's Area. Creating their own colorful crayon designs, and then seeing them transferred from

paper to fabric had the kids waiting in line for a turn. Cutting original stencils from paper and applying them with paint onto fabric was another popular experience with the younger set. The staff and volunteers assisting the youngsters with their original creations were well rewarded with the smiles and happy faces of children proud of their own works of art.

Teaching children about career opportunities in the museum field was the focus of the Museum staff's participation in the 1999 Fifth Grade Career Day. The day was organized by East Central Multi-District marketing classes under the direction of instructor Brad Bonde. It offered Brookings Elementary fifth graders a glimpse into a wide variety of career possibilities ranging from "art" to "veterinarian."

Career Day was held at the

National Guard Armory in Brookings where Art Museum staff produced a "mini-gallery" featuring Oscar Howe paintings and Native American artifacts. To demonstrate typical museum activities, a "mini-workshop" was held featuring the Museum's own resident fiber artist, director Lynn Verschoor. Students watched as Lynn created a punch rug design based on a drawing by her son, Zach. Then each group of students got hands-on experience by adding fibers to one of three progressive loom weavings. The three weavings were finished by the end of the day, and were delivered to the fifth grade classes at each of Brookings' three elementary schools.

Students took home South Dakota Art Museum bookmarks, Harvey Dunn postcards, and, hopefully, a better understanding of the career choices available in the museum field.



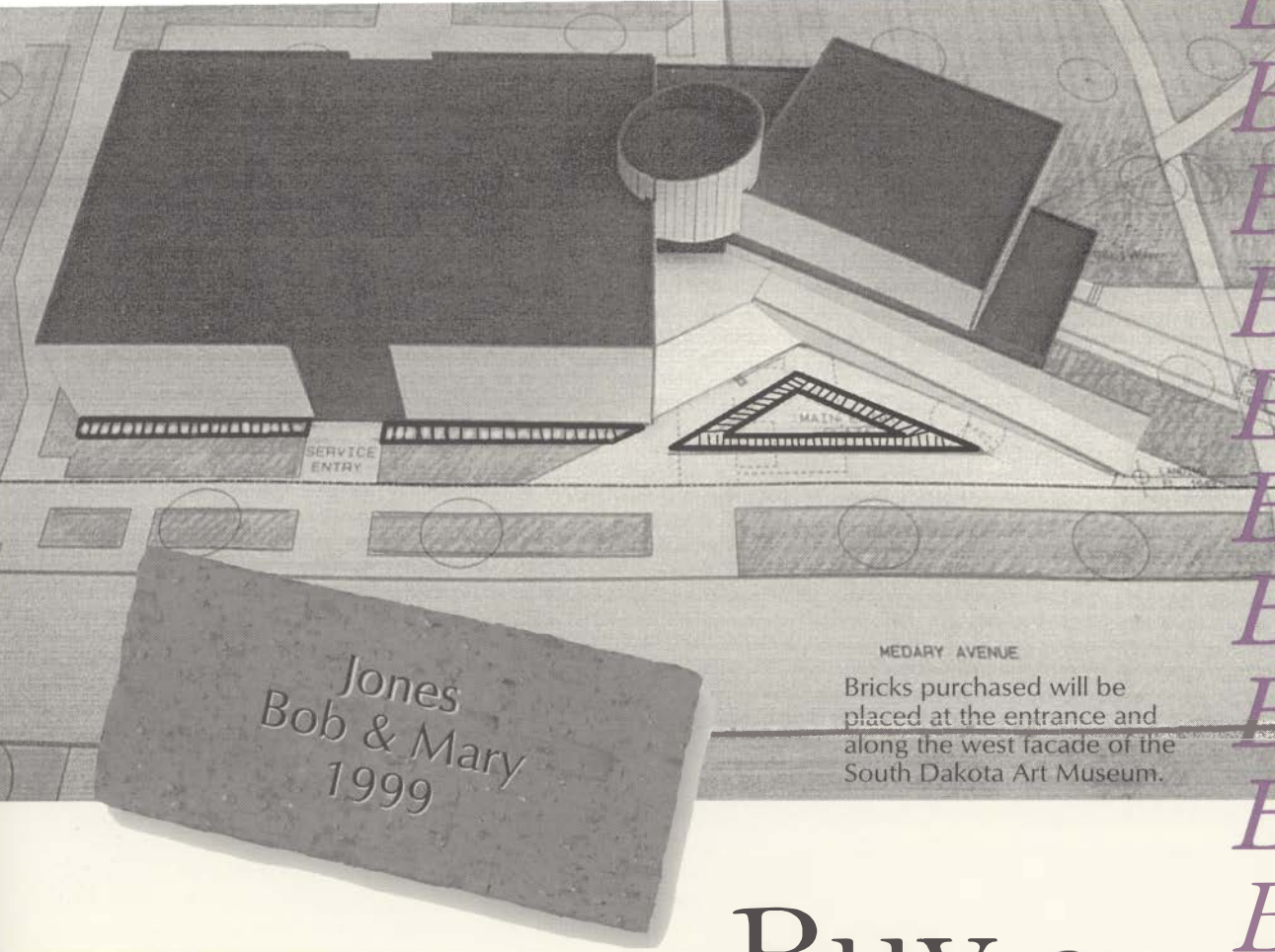
Tour

A group of twenty-eight arts enthusiasts gathered on June 24 to attend the first Museum Discovery Tour sponsored by the South Dakota Art Museum. The tour took them first to the newly renovated Minneapolis Institute of Arts where they enjoyed a "highlights tour" and several hours of time to browse on their own.

Featured exhibitions were the architecture of *Ralph Rapson: Sixty Years of Modern Design*; the art of *Padberg/Toscani*, dealing with issues of domesticity and the vernacular of the everyday; photographs on the subject of child labor by Lewis W. Hine and David L. Parker; and *Recent Accessions* by the Institute.

After registering at the luxurious St. Paul Radisson Inn, they headed for fine dining in the atmosphere of an elegant English pub at Gallivan's in St. Paul. Next, it was off to the theatrical highlight of the trip, the Ordway Music Theatre, for a stunning production of the Tony award-winning musical, *Miss Saigon*.

On Friday morning, the group set off early to immerse themselves in art again at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and the Walker Art Center. The Walker featured the exhibition *Edward Ruscha: Editions 1959-1999*. Ruscha is one of contemporary art's most significant graphic artists. This exhibition was a major retrospective of the artist's prints, books, and graphic works. Other exhibits on display were *Scenarios: Recent Work by Lorna Simpson*, a compilation of three black and white film works, and *Selections From the Permanent Collection*, which looked at the history of the Walker's contemporary art collection.



MEDARY AVENUE
Bricks purchased will be placed at the entrance and along the west facade of the South Dakota Art Museum.

Bricks
Bricks
Bricks
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Bricks

Support the South Dakota Art Museum:

Buy a Brick

The design of the new Art Museum includes a large main entry plaza made up of concrete walkways surrounding a triangle of embedded brick pavers. The inlaid triangle is intended as a gesture of welcome to visitors and serves to guide them to the entrance of the Museum.

Museum supporters will have the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for each \$100 donation they contribute.

A donation of \$100 allows the donor to select an inscription to be applied to the face of a brick. Each brick will have three lines available for inscription with eleven spaces on each line. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor or memorialize loved ones, while supporting the South Dakota Art Museum.

Inscription: Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mastercard/Visa: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Make checks payable to: South Dakota Art Museum

Mail to: South Dakota Art Museum
Box 2250, SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007-0899

Volunteer Guild Activities

The South Dakota Art Museum Volunteer Guild concluded its official year with the annual Spring Brunch held at Casper's Restaurant on April 27. The newly-elected slate of officers for the 1999-2000 meeting year was introduced as follows: President - Sharon Van Riper; Vice President - Jessie Finch; Secretary - Mary Moe; Treasurer - Pam Warren; Historian - Jone Anderson; Members at Large - Josie Moyer and Donna Ritter; and Art-in-the-Schools Coordinator - Nancy Rexwinkel.

The highlight of the brunch was the featured speaker, South Dakota Art Museum Director Lynn Verschoor. She provided some insight into her personal and professional history, and the path that led her to the directorship of the Museum, which she assumed on February 3. Verschoor also shared with Guild members her vision of what the South Dakota Art Museum will be upon its reopening in a newly renovated and expanded building.

The Guild's Spring Trip was held on May 12, with twenty members in attendance. The group visited the Tekakwitha Fine Art Center near Sisseton, and then spent an enjoyable afternoon touring the Blue Cloud Abbey. Thanks to Jessie Finch for planning such a delightful excursion!

Although the Guild is on its summer break from meetings, members turned out for a special meeting on June 15. The executive board brought forth a recommendation that the Guild purchase a work of art to commemorate the grand re-opening of the museum upon completion of its construction project. A motion to this effect was passed, and a committee was formed to determine the funding options and the selection process for the artwork.

The bulk of the meeting time was spent discussing long range plans for the Volunteer Guild. Many ideas were considered with regard to the role of the Guild in the Museum's outreach efforts.

A membership drive and increased promotion of the Guild's activities were suggested. All of the results of this lively discussion have been compiled into a report that will be forwarded to the Museum's Board of Trustees. The information gathered on the Guild's views, needs, and direction will contribute to the Board's long range plans for the entire Museum.

The South Dakota Art Museum Volunteer Guild meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through April, excluding the months of January and February. Meetings are held at 10:00 a.m., beginning with coffee and refreshments at 9:30. While the Museum is closed for construction, Guild meetings are held at the meeting room of the Sheraton Condominium, 808 Christine Avenue, in Brookings. All interested parties are invited to attend. Call the Museum Office at 688-5423 or President Sharon Van Riper at 692-4991 for information.

The South Dakota Art Museum needs YOU

Members As a Museum member, your benefits include the *South Dakota Art Museum News*, a 20% discount on Museum classes and workshops, and a 10% discount on Museum Store purchases. Your name also will be included in the membership list in the summer issue of the *News* each year.

Gifts In addition to your dues, your contribution to the Museum Endowment will purchase works of art and provide for facility maintenance in the coming years. These contributions also fund publications, scholarly research on collections, conservation of art works, and their restoration. To acknowledge the role you play in preserving our state's artistic legacy, your name will be listed as a contributor to the Museum in the fall issue of the *South Dakota Art Museum News*. Contributors of \$1,000 or more to the Museum will be acknowledged as exhibition sponsors in publications and news releases.

Volunteer opportunities are available.
Call 605-688-5423 for more information.

South Dakota Art Museum Membership Application/Renewal

Name as it should appear in publication

Address

Phone

City

State

Zip

Annual Membership: _____

Student (\$15.00)

Individual (\$25.00)

Family (\$35.00)

Contribution: _____

Museum Endowment

Total _____

Please make check payable to South Dakota Art Museum and send it with this application to:

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Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street

Box 2250

Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899

Membership dues are not tax deductible.

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South Dakota Art Museum

Position Announcements

Lynn Verschoor, director of the South Dakota Art Museum, has announced the addition of two new curator positions at the Museum. Lisa Scholten has been named as Curator of Collections, and Nancy Rexwinkel is Curator of Education. Both are familiar faces, having worked at the Museum in other positions.

Lisa Scholten has been associated with the Museum since 1996 when she was contracted to catalog and prepare Marghab Linens for sale and auction. In the summer of 1998, she was named acting Marghab Linen Curator.

A native of Lyndhurst, Ohio, Lisa graduated with a B.A. in clothing and fashion merchandising from Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio. She earned her M.S. in textile science from Ohio State University, and she has done course work toward a Ph.D. in textile science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. From 1987 to 1994, Lisa was an assistant professor in the department of Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design at SDSU, and also acted as curator of the Adeline Snellman Hsia Historic and Ethnic Costume Collection. Lisa lives in rural Brookings with her husband, Bill, and their daughter, Kati.

Nancy Rexwinkel started as a Museum volunteer in 1995. During the fundraising campaign for the building project, she worked as a temporary staff assistant, and then as a part-time information assistant. Nancy was named acting Curator of Education in the summer of 1998.

A South Dakota State University alumna, Nancy graduated from the College of Pharmacy, and worked in retail and hospital pharmacy prior to moving to the Brookings area in 1992. She has always maintained an interest in the arts, and has done course work pursuant to an art degree. Nancy lives in rural Brookings with her husband, Greg, and their three children, Jillian, Thomas, and Daniel.

The Curator of Exhibitions position, which was vacated by Francine Marcel during the summer of 1998, has not yet been filled. An effort is now underway to recruit a qualified candidate, and several applicants have already been interviewed. The Curator of Exhibitions will be hired in the near future to begin developing, planning, and scheduling a slate of exciting exhibitions, starting with the South Dakota Art Museum's grand re-opening.

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This newsletter is sponsored by BankFirst/M.A. and Karen Lund, Brookings Friends of the Arts, and the South Dakota Arts Council, a state agency with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the South Dakota State Legislature.

Directions: 1 & 1/2 miles West from Interstate 29 on Hwy 14, turn right on Medary Avenue, 4 blocks to Harvey Dunn Street. Museum is on right.

3500 copies of this document were printed by the South Dakota Art Museum at a cost of 39 cents each. MA001 9-99



SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL
support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota and the National Endowment for the Arts

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The South Dakota Art Museum

Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street
Box 2250
Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899
(605) 688-5423
E-mail: sdsu_sdsm@sdstate.edu
<http://www.sdstate.edu/~wsam/http/art1.html>



Accredited by the American Association of Museums

Museum closed to the public for construction.
Temporary offices and Museum Store located in room 221 Wecota Hall, Medary Avenue, SDSU

Hours are Monday through Friday
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