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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Winter 2000

South Dakota Art Museum News, Winter 2000

South Dakota Art Museum

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Legacy of Art and Education

The South Dakota Arts Community lost a valued friend and advocate when Florence Bruhn, 88, died at her home in Watertown, South Dakota, on January 16, 1999. Even after her death, Bruhn continues to provide artistic enrichment to the people of the state where she spent her entire life. Through her estate, Florence Bruhn has presented the South Dakota Art Museum with three of her original oil paintings.

Born to Henry and Elizabeth Bruhn at Yankton, South Dakota, in 1910, Florence grew up in Platte where her father worked as a photographer and an artist. After high school, she became a teacher and spent two years teaching in rural schools near the Missouri River and three years in Armour. In 1939, she moved to Watertown where she taught until retirement.

Over the years, Bruhn worked to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's degree through summer schools, night classes, correspondence, and study outside of the state. She became an icon of art education writing three art books for publication, including *Grandma's Watertown Coloring Book*, and

Simplified Art Instruction, a teaching guide for the state. A teacher of art, drama, and related subjects, Bruhn also

initiated many Watertown school traditions, such as the weeklong Festival of the Arts.

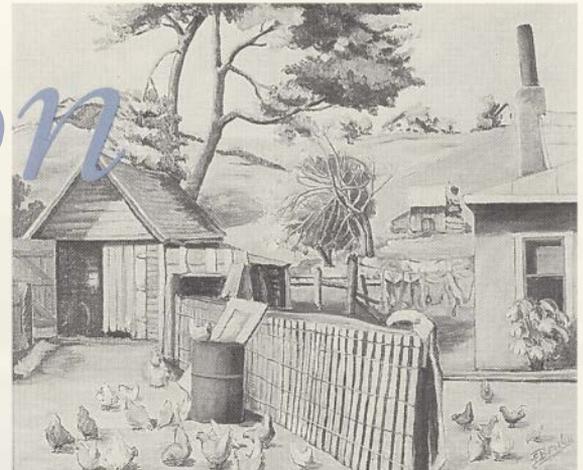
Florence Bruhn was an organizer of the Watertown Arts Council and was well known statewide for her association with the South Dakota Arts Council.

Among other honors, Bruhn was selected as the third recipient of the annual Spirit of Dakota Award. She also received the Governor's first Annual Art Instructor's Award in 1994, and September 18, 1995, her 85th birthday, was named Florence Bruhn Day by Governor William J. Janklow.

In October of 1995, Bruhn's community contributions were honored when Watertown's "B" Avenue was renamed "Bruhn" Avenue. At the age of 86, Florence was selected to carry the Olympic Torch as it passed through Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The original paintings by Florence Bruhn given to the South Dakota Art Museum include *Shingles* (1950) and *Nevadaville* (1950). Both depict Colorado scenes and demonstrate an old and seldom used oil-glazing technique. The third painting entitled *Vermillion Bottoms* (1948) was painted on site at the Vermillion River bottom and was Bruhn's earliest original painting.

Florence Bruhn's contributions to Watertown, and to the state of South Dakota were numerous. Her commitment to art and education influenced the lives of many, and this, her final gift to the people of South Dakota, will continue that legacy.



Top: *Vermillion Bottoms*, oil on canvas

Left: *Shingles*, gesso, oil, casein, oil glazes on masonite

Right: *Nevadaville*, gesso, casein, oil glazes on masonite

Harvey Dunn's

World War I Works

During the summer of 1999, the South Dakota Art Museum was awarded a travel grant from the Museum Loan Network (MLN). The funds were awarded for the purpose of exploring a loan of works by South Dakota native, Harvey Dunn. These works are located at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The South Dakota Art Museum is interested in Dunn's World War I illustrations done in France

during his commission as a captain with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Harvey Dunn was one of eight of the nation's foremost illustrators selected to volunteer as the official artists of the AEF. As a group, these artists produced over 700 images for use primarily as historical documentation, as well as, in publicity and propaganda materials. Most of these works are held in the National Collections of the Smithsonian Institution.

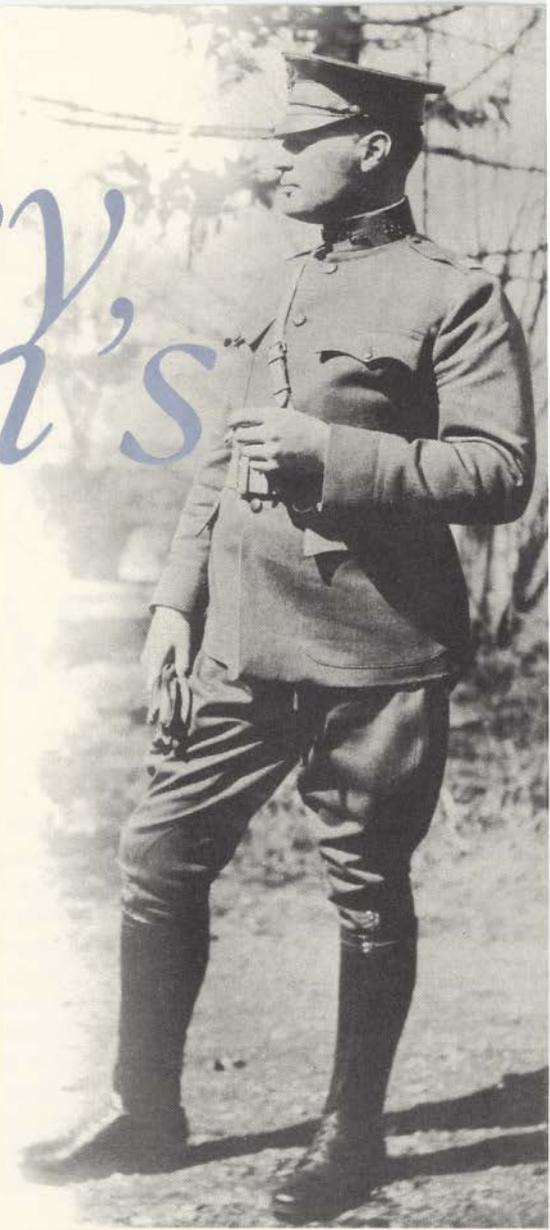
In late September, Museum Director Lynn Verschoor, Collections Curator Lisa Scholten, and Education Curator Nancy Rexwinkel traveled to Washington to meet with representatives from the National Museum of American History.

Margaret S. Vining, Museum Specialist with the Division of the

History of Technology, assisted as they viewed Dunn's works and selected appropriate pieces to be considered for loan to the South Dakota Art Museum. They also met with Senior Paper Conservator, Lynne Gilliland to discuss conservation concerns, as well as, shipping and facilities requirements. Public Relations Officer Melinda Machado presented educational and programming resources for use in conjunction with the Dunn exhibition.

Harvey Dunn's wartime illustrations, worked in oil, watercolor, pastel, crayon, and charcoal, would provide South Dakota viewers with another dimension of his art. It is the South Dakota Art Museum's intent to borrow these images from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History for a period of at least two years, and to display them on a rotating basis along with works from the permanent Dunn collection held by the Art Museum.

The National Museum of American History requires comprehensive



environmental and facilities reports to be completed before any loan agreements take place. The South Dakota Art Museum is also financially responsible for any conservation procedures that are necessary before the works leave the National Museum, and for the extensive packing systems required for shipping. Therefore, the loan of Harvey Dunn's AEF work is expected to be finalized in the year 2001, after the Museum reopens.

The opportunity for South Dakota Art Museum staff members to travel to Washington, D.C., to initiate this project was made possible by the Museum Loan Network (MLN)—the first comprehensive national collection-sharing program—that stimulates, facilitates, and funds long-term loans of art among U.S. institutions to enhance museums' "permanent" installations. The MLN's Program consists of two complementary components: the MLN Directory, an illustrated online database that includes objects available for long-term loan by museums around the country, and the MLN grant programs, which help realize loans between institutions. Launched in 1995, the MLN is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, which conceived and initiated the program, and is administered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Office of the Arts.



Left: Museum Director, Lynn Verschoor and Education Curator, Nancy Rexwinkel search through the Smithsonian's archival information on Harvey Dunn.

Above: Margaret Vining, from the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, assists Lynn Verschoor in viewing Harvey Dunn's war works.

Beading Workshops

Offered in March

The South Dakota Art Museum will be offering two different beading workshops during the month of March. Both workshops will be taught by bead and jewelry-making expert Joy Crane of Sioux Falls.

The adult class will consist of 2 Saturday morning workshops where participants will learn basic jewelry-making techniques while making a beautiful multistrand ethnic beaded necklace. Class size is limited to 15 students.

Adults (age 14 and up):

Saturday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (part 1)

Saturday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (part 2)

\$40 for instruction and supplies

Students in the children's class will create a lovely beaded single-strand birthstone necklace. Class size is limited to 12 students.

Children (age 8 – 13):

Wednesday, March 15, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

\$10 for instruction and supplies

Both classes will be held in the Jackrabbit Room (#103) of the Student Union on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. Register early by calling the Museum Office at 605-688-5423.

Introduction to Chinese Art

An opportunity to study Chinese art and history with an expert is available through the Department of International Programs at South Dakota State University. The course will be taught by P. Richard Bohr, associate professor of history and director of Asian Studies at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Bohr will survey the major Chinese art forms and examine their relevance to Chinese life and institutions, from ancient to contemporary times. This introduction to Chinese art will be held in Room 103 of the Northern Plains Biostress Laboratory on the Campus of SDSU. It will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2000, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00, including lunch. Pre-register by calling the Office of International Programs at 605-688-4706.

This would be an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in the Museum Discovery Tour to Kansas City (see article) to gain some prior knowledge on the fabulous Asian art collection at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Curator's Corner

Lisa Scholten Curator of Collections



We receive many inquiries on caring for artwork. Since the last Marghab Linen sale, we have had several questions about the care of fine linens. It is our hope that people will enjoy their linens, and yet, care for them appropriately so that they may be shared with future generations.

Given that linens are organic in nature, they will deteriorate over time. However, there are several easy things that can be done to slow down the deterioration. With proper use, care and storage, fine linens can last for hundreds of years. Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy your fine linens and care for them properly.

Proper Use

Linens that are already in good condition can be used if proper attention is paid to the way they are used. Avoid serving red wine or foods that may leave permanent stains on the linens. After linens have been used, it is important to clean them as soon as possible, preferably within 24-48 hours. Light is very harmful to linen because it causes fading and accelerates the degradation process. Avoid direct sun and fluorescent light.

Proper Care

Keep linens clean. It is best to use and store linens in a clean state, avoiding the use of bleaches and starch. Linens that are properly cared for should not need any starch. In fact, starched linens will attract insects and promote mold/mildew growth in a humid environment.

Cleaning linens is easy if the linen is in good condition—do not attempt to clean brittle linen. Use a mild detergent with no added bleach or perfumes. Thoroughly dissolve detergent in lukewarm water, then add the linen and gently agitate. Drain washing solution and rinse several times with lukewarm water until the water

runs clear. Then roll the linen in a clean terry towel to absorb excess water. Do not wring or twist your linen. Place linen face-side down on pressing surface and press-to-dry using a dry iron. Finger press folds into the linen.

Proper Storage

The best location in your house for storing textiles is a cool, dark, dry room, avoiding the attic or basement. Attics and basements tend to have excessive and fluctuating heat and humidity that causes stress on the individual fibers resulting in irreversible damage to the linen. If a closet is to be used for storage, be sure there is sufficient air circulation to discourage fungal growth and pest infestation. Rust-free metal shelving is good for storing textiles that have been boxed or rolled with an outer protective layer of muslin. Avoid using wooden shelves or drawers. If you must use wooden shelves or drawers for storage, seal the wood with shellac or water-soluble polyurethane varnish. Line drawer bottoms and sides with archival board or aluminum foil. Store textile objects in a clean state. Soiled textiles may discolor over time and may encourage a fungal or insect attack. Do not use "dry-cleaner" bags for storage—they contain oils that will discolor and stain your linens over time. Also, if the item is exposed to high heat, the plastic will melt and adhere to the linen. Other textile items may be stored flat or rolled on a cardboard tube that has been lined with aluminum foil, muslin or a clean sheet so that the textile is not in direct contact with the cardboard.

At the South Dakota Art Museum, we are reassessing current storage methods for the Marghab Linens. An effort is being made to develop a more suitable storage system for the linens in order to protect this exquisite collection so that its beauty may be shared with future generations.

Tilly Laskey

New Curator of Exhibitions



The newest member of the South Dakota Art Museum staff is Curator of Exhibitions, Tilly Laskey. Since

joining the Museum on October 1, 1999, she has been busy learning about our collections and scheduling exciting exhibitions for the Museum's reopening.

Laskey was born and raised in Brunswick, Maine, and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Maine. Her major area of study was art history, with minors in anthropology and the classics.

Tilly received her graduate degree in museum and field studies concentrating on art history and anthropology from the University of Colorado in August of 1999.

She has a background as a curator, organizer, and manager. Her previous experience includes: assistant curator, internship at the Denver Art Museum, director of membership services for a national non-profit advocacy group, organizer for Arts Adventurefest (an international kite and performance art festival in Arvada, Colorado), and retail manager/buyer.

She enjoys rock climbing, hiking, theatre, music, and spending time with her Border collie, Bailey, and her Maine coon cat, Forest. Tilly is eager to become involved in the local arts community. Her experience, enthusiasm and energy are definitely assets for the South Dakota Art Museum and for Brookings.

Discovery *Tours*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number in party: _____

Visa/Mastercard: _____

Expiration date: _____

Make checks payable to:
South Dakota Art Museum

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

Museum Discovery *Tours* Kansas City

Plans are now underway for a Museum Discovery Tour to Kansas City! Mark your calendar and join us June 15-18 for the 3-night, 4-day guided motor coach tour to the city of blues and barbeque.

The tentative schedule includes visits to several museums such as the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, as well as, sites at the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District.

No trip to Kansas City would be complete without plenty of old-fashioned barbecue and musical entertainment. Dinners and evening activities are planned at the

K.C. Masterpiece BBQ Plaza and the Majestic Steakhouse Jazz Club. We will also spend an evening at the New Theatre Restaurant to see a dinner theatre performance of *Same Time Next Year*, starring Bonnie Franklin. We're looking forward to lots of local culture, food, and fun!

The cost, including all breakfasts and dinners, admission fees, luxurious

lodging, and travel is just \$489 per person based on double occupancy. This is a trip you don't want to miss. Call the South Dakota Art Museum office at 605-688-6702 for reservations.

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 Endowment in the Summer issue of the *South Dakota Art Museum News*. Contributors of \$1,000 or more to the Museum Endowment 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 _____

Building Fund _____

Total _____

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

South Dakota Art Museum

Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street

Box 2250

Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899

Membership dues are not tax deductible.

New Museum T-Shirts & Tote Bags

The South Dakota Art Museum Store is the place to shop for T-shirts and tote bags! T-shirts featuring the Museum logo are available in a variety of colors and sizes. The logo is also highlighted on canvas tote bags that are perfect for travel or containing papers or projects!

Both items are very reasonably priced. The T-shirts are \$15, and the tote bags sell for only \$10. Keep these useful items in mind when shopping for souvenirs or gifts. Stop in at the Museum Store at our temporary location on the second floor of Wecota Hall across the street from the Museum. Call 688-5423 for information.



Arts Website—E-Mail

The new website address for the South Dakota Art Museum is sdartmuseum.sdstate.edu

Those who would like to contact us via e-mail should use sdsu_sdam@sdstate.edu

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This newsletter is sponsored by BankFirst/M.A. and Karen Lund, the William and Harriet Gould Foundation, 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.



3,500 copies of this document were printed by the South Dakota Art Museum at a cost of 31 cents each. MA001 2-00

SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL
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South Dakota State University

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(605) 688-5423

E-mail: sdsu_sdam@sdstate.edu

Web: sdartmuseum.sdstate.edu



Accredited by the American
Association of Museums

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Temporary offices and Museum Store located in room
221 Wecota Hall, Medary Avenue, SDSU

Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

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