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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

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News from the South Dakota Memorial Art Center, Spring 1985

South Dakota State University

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News from the
South Dakota Memorial Art Center
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May-June 1985

JEFF FREEMAN: THE NEW LOST CRYPTIC SERIES will show at the Memorial Art Center through May 19. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, Freeman has taught at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion since 1980. Critical acclaim for his work from the New Lost Cryptic Series includes the Best Painting Award from the Sioux City Art Center's 1983 Biennial and an award from the Joslyn Art Museum's 1984 Biennial at Omaha. Through a gift from Alice Berry of Brookings the Memorial Art Center will acquire a major work from this exhibition for its collection.

THE PEYOTE ROAD, showing through May 19, was organized from the collections of Joanita Kant Fisher, C. Edward Garner, and Beatrice Medicine, and features loose-feather fans, a gourd rattle, water drum, and other articles used in Native American Church meetings. Peyote is used as a sacrament in the religion. A related ethical code, The Peyote Road, emphasizes brotherly love, care of family, self-reliance, and the avoidance of alcohol.

SOUTH DAKOTA ARTISTS, May 26 - August 25, features work from the Memorial Art Center's extensive collection of South Dakota art, ranging from Charles Greener's 1910 masterpiece, "Honkers at Sunrise," to John Koehler's elegant 1980-82 work in Wyoming serpentine, "Levitating Landscape." An introduction to the exhibition for Memorial Art Center Guild receptionists and tour guides will be presented Monday, May 27, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

THE MARGHAB COLLECTION of embroidered linens from Madeira, Harvey Dunn Paintings, and Sioux Art from the Frank and Anna Dudeck, Beatrice Medicine, and Ben Reifel Collections are the permanent exhibitions at the Memorial Art Center.

HARVEY DUNN: SON OF THE MIDDLE BORDER, an exhibition drawn from the Memorial Art Center's collection of 74 works by the artist, will complete its tour in the Northwest at the North Country Museum of Arts in Park Rapids, Minnesota, ending May 26. The tour was organized to commemorate the artist's centennial.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, has supported the Memorial Art Center's Touring Exhibitions Service, conservation of the collection, and the Raul Ponce de Leon, Mark McGinnis, and Jeff Freeman exhibitions this 1984-85 year. The Council has awarded \$13,535 for 1985-86 in support of greater utilization of the Memorial Art Center's South Dakota Art Collection, which had 555 works by 150 artists as of December 31, 1984.

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PHYLLIS BARTLING of Brookings was elected president of the Memorial Art Center Board of Trustees at the Board's annual meeting April 20, succeeding Jack Stengel of Milbank. Mrs. Bartling is a charter member, docent, and past president of the Memorial Art Center Guild. L. Don Andrews of Sioux Falls was re-elected vice president and Charles F. Cecil of Brookings was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Dr. Robert Wagner, new president of South Dakota State University, joined the Board, and Jeannette C. Lusk of Huron was elected Life Member. Mrs. Lusk served as the Board's first president during 1969-74. Other members of the Board are Allen Barnes, Hilton Briggs, and Elmer Sexauer of Brookings, Dona Brown and Betty Osborn of Huron, Robert Carey and Vera Way Marghab of Watertown, Susan Edwards of Pierre, Del Griffin of Aberdeen, Robert Karolevitz of Mission Hill, Ben Reifel of Estelline, and Kay Riordan Steuerwald of Rapid City.

KAREN LUND was elected president of the Memorial Art Center Guild at the Guild's annual meeting April 25, succeeding Mary Thompson. Mrs. Thompson was elected vice president, Naomi Gilkerson secretary, Joan Dybing treasurer, Kay Romans historian, and Elaine Olson and Cecilia Beirne members-at-large. Alice Berry and Mary Leonard retired from offices. All are from Brookings. Limen Smythe, charter member, docent, and past president of the Guild, was awarded special recognition for his service to the Guild. Cecilia Beirne and Elsie Lievan presented one of the Guild's Art in the Schools programs at the meeting, on artist Karl Bodmer's work from the 1832-34 Maximilian Expedition in the Northwest. Memorial Art Center director Joseph Stuart presented a slide-lecture on American art since 1970.

ONE MEGATON, a work from Aberdeen artist Mark McGinnis' recent exhibition at the Memorial Art Center, has been purchased for the collection through gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Vern Laustsen of Aberdeen and the Memorial Art Center Guild. The 1982 work is a three-dimensional speculation on the results of a one megaton nuclear bomb blast in an urban area.

THE CLAUDE R. WHITLOCK COLLECTION of American Indian art has been given to the Memorial Art Center by his daughter, Pauline W. Jennings of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Mr. Whitlock served as day-school teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools on Indian reservations in South Dakota, Washington State, and Oklahoma during 1905-50. Among the 53 articles in the collection is a magnificent Lakota or Western Sioux man's ceremonial ensemble, which includes an eagle feather headdress, beaded skin shirt, leggings, moccasins, and gauntlets, and pipe with inlaid bowl and quilled stem.

IRENE CORDTS of Faulkton has given two paintings and a drawing by Charles Greener (1870-1935) of Faulkton to the collection, which now includes 41 works by the artist. Dr. G. Robert Hanson of Custer has given a serigraph by Brule Sioux/Omaha artist Robert Penn to the collection.