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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Fall 1973

South Dakota Memorial Art Center News, Fall 1973

South Dakota State University

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N. C. Wyeth exhibition opens September 2

Charles Wilson Peale founded the first dynasty of American artists, giving us our own Raphaelle, Rembrandt, Rubens, and Titian (his names to some of his children-artists). But more Americans today are likely to know of the Wyeth dynasty—N. C. and his children-artists Andrew, Carolyn, and Henriette, and their artist spouses and children.

Newell Convers Wyeth (1882-1945) is probably best remembered for his romantically brilliant illustrations of *Treasure Island*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *David Balfour*, *The Boy's King Arthur*, and many other books

N. C. Wyeth. *Self-Portrait in Stocking Cap*, ca. 1925



and magazine stories.

He studied with a man known as "the father of modern illustration," Howard Pyle, at Wilmington, Del. It was there that he met and became close friends with a fellow student, Harvey Dunn of South Dakota.

This fall a special exhibition of paintings by N. C. Wyeth will be presented at the Memorial Art Center, and the works of Dunn and Wyeth will be seen together for the first time in many years. The Wyeth paintings have been gathered from a variety of collections by the staff of the Brandywine River Museum at Chadds Ford, Pa., for this showing. The exhibition will be open to the general public Sept. 2 through Oct. 28.

SDSU initiates 'Sports in Art'

Sports and art may not sound compatible but they are, and to prove it South Dakota State University will hold its first Sports in Art Week Oct. 22-28.

Heading the list of speakers will be Joseph Brown, the professor from Princeton University who created the outdoor sculpture for the Three Rivers Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio. He will deliver a lecture and demonstrate clay modeling the morning of Saturday, Oct. 27, in the Memorial Art Center Auditorium. The exact time has not yet been arranged, according to Stan Marshall, chairman of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER).

Local resources will also be utilized during the week. David Allan Evans, SDSU assistant professor of English, will read him poems about athletes, and Paul Jackson, also an assistant professor of English, will display his paintings of sports.

Fredrick Bunce, chairman of the Art Department, will present a lecture on the history of sports in art. The SDSU Dance Club and the Synchronized Swim Club will also participate in the week's activities.

Marshall invites anyone who has done a painting, sculpture or other piece of art which shows movement and who wants to display it, to contact either himself or Joe Stuart, director of the Memorial Art Center. The various art will displayed in the Art Center and the new Physical Education Center.

Sports in Art Week will be a cooperative effort of the HPER Department, Art Department, Memorial Art Center, and the Area Arts Council.

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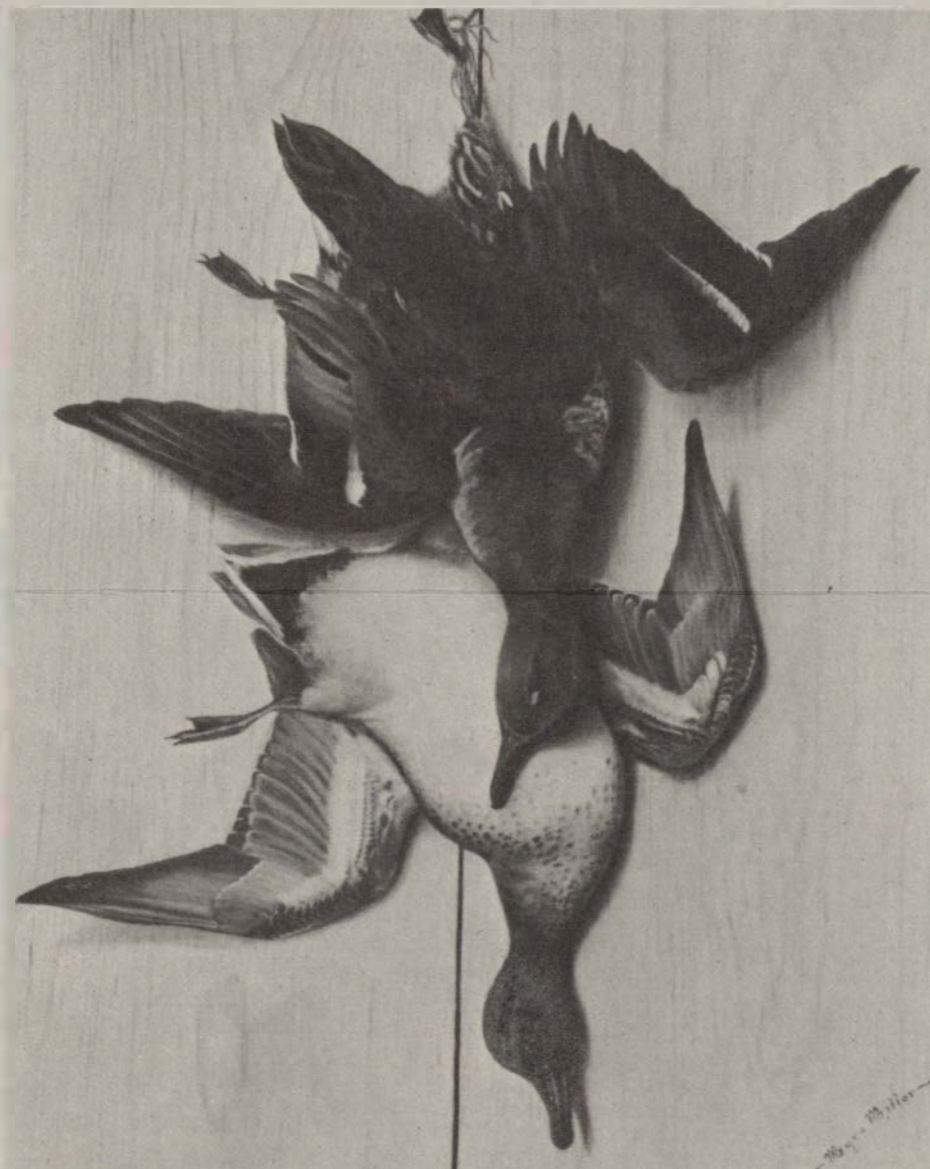
Myra Miller (1882-1961)

She was magic realist of Buffalo Lakes

The following is the fourth in a series of profiles of South Dakota artists based upon the Memorial Art Center's Survey of the Visual Arts in South Dakota. This profile is written by Joseph Stuart, survey director. The survey has been funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts through the South Dakota Arts Council.

Myra Miller was a woman with extraordinary curiosity, talent, and energy. Along with the work of operating a 1,000 acre farm, she developed sizable collections of rock, moth, and butterfly specimens, practiced photography on a professional level, and produced some of the

Myra Miller. Greenwinged Teals, ca. 1918



most intriguing paintings discovered during this survey.

Myra was born at Montevideo, Minn. in 1882. Her family moved to Milbank when she was two. At Milbank she completed eight grades of school, and had her only training in art—study with the Rogers sisters, Laura and Anna. She taught for a time at the rural Amsten School. In 1907 she married Charles Miller and moved to their farm on the edge of Buffalo Lake, west of Sisseton. She died at Sisseton in 1961.

Myra approached endeavors in a practical, straight forward manner that seems consistent with the rural South Dakota character. For example, she needed a rock-polisher for her collection, so she designed and built

one. She surveyed, trenched, and drained a slough on her farm without help.

Her first attempt at painting—copying a calendar picture of a dog retrieving a bird—was not, in her opinion, successful because it was not realistic enough. Consequently, she decided to paint freshly killed birds hanging on a wall of her home, thereby being able to spend considerable time and at close range producing realistic descriptions of her subjects. She solved the problem of spoilage of the birds by keeping them in cold storage between painting sessions, and often worked during the winter in a room without heat for the same reason.

Earlier this year her son, Don, gave 11 of her paintings to the Memorial Art Center for its collections. Of these, six are portrayals of killed South Dakota birds—usually drake-hen pairs—that frequented the Buffalo Lakes area. Included in this series are bluebills, greenwinged teals, mallards, pheasants, pintails and spoonbills.

Her kind of *trompe l'oeil* ("deceive the eye") painting is in the tradition of such artists as John Haberle, William Harnett, and John Peto, who were probably influenced by the super realism of much Dutch still life painting of the 17th and 18th centuries. It is not known whether Myra knew of this tradition, however.

It is most likely that she admired super realism, and set this goal for herself with her own painting. After developing the necessary technical ability, and obviously possessing a feeling for the dramatic, she seems to have naturally moved towards *trompe l'oeil* work.

Her work in painting did not go unnoticed. In State Fair competitions she won several awards—nine in one fair alone. Ida B. Alseth of South Dakota has written a great deal about Myra's painting, including articles in the *Aberdeen American-News*, *Capper's Farmer*, and the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*.

A selection from the recently acquired Miller paintings will be on display at the Center this fall.

Biographical information included in this profile is courtesy of Don Miller, Pierre.

Art Center acknowledges memorials

\$20 was given in memory of Mrs. C. H. Berg by the following people, all from Brookings:

Pat Intermill, Marsha Hobbs, Les Foreman, Bob Graham, Marvin Scholten, Darrel Jensen, Robert Luchsinger, Clark W. Hanson, Howard Kramer, Loren Betz, Duane Everett, Hilding Gadda, Stanley S. Nelson, Allan Lindstrom, Orville Schmieding, James O'Connor, Leslie Vanderpan.
\$5 was given in memory of Chandos B. Royer by Mrs. Vesta (C. B.) Royer of Huron.

\$455 was given in memory of Birdie Brown by the following people:

Mrs. Elsie Nielsen, Brookings; Huron Senior High Faculty, Huron; Miss Grace Lather, Huron; Mrs. Dorothy Habel, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Vern Tollefson, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lampe, Huron; Selma Bernstein, Brookings; Mrs. Minnie Herreman, Brookings; Mabel Antonides, Brookings; Jeanette Abbey, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Housiaux, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Williams, Brookings; Peggy Blakely, Brookings; Dean Frances Hettler, Brookings; Mrs. Arla Magnus, Brookings; Mrs. William Jarmon, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Redman, Brookings; Esther Berdahl, Colton; Miss Talvina Nelson, Colton; Mr. and Mrs. James Salon and family, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. George Bowne and Dale, White;

Mrs. Hattie Korte, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Del Pike, Brookings; Dr. and Mrs. G. McMahon, Brookings; Mrs. Ruth Sanders, Brookings; Jean Herried, Brookings; Edith Eklund, Brookings; Edna Mae Claeseman, Brookings; Mrs. Lucille Parsley, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Chris Christensen, Brookings; Mrs. Laura Christensen, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ulrich, Huron;

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Coulson, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Leland Steele, Huron; Eva Walker, Huron; Carrie Russell, Brookings; Ingrid Aasen, Brookings; Dr. and Mrs. L. W. Turnwall, Huron; Elizabeth Wagenaar, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Cole, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kellogg, Brookings; Mrs. Florence Noethe, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Larson, St. Paul, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Evenson, Brookings; The Vern Hagedorn family, West Point, Neb.;

Mrs. L. L. Blake, Watertown; Dora Quail, Brookings; Jean Ann Beach, Huron; The K.

S. Hayters, Brookings; Virgil Smiths, Dell Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Berdahl, Sioux Falls;

Geneva Croll, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Bauder, Huron; Marie McClenahan, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Don Costain, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Gullickson, St. Paul, Minn.; Public School Administrators (Lincoln School) Huron;

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Long, Huron; First Savings and Loan, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ruddy, Huron; Cora Vance, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Berg, Huron; C. May Overton, Prescott, Ariz.; David Pearson, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. August J. Will, Omaha, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen A. Fingerson, Huron; Mrs. Vida Fenner, Huron; Grace M. Schaefer, Huron; Helen C. Buchanan, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barnes, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Landstrom, Huron; Bernice Howard, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Mateer, Pierre; Lenore S. Holthusen, New York, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Arnold, Midland, Mich.

Mildred A. Newton, Huron; Mrs. A. A. Brower, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Risty, Carson; Mr. and Mrs. George Snow, Huron; Mrs. J. E. Schoof, Huron; Dr. and Mrs. Aaron C. Nelson, Tucson, Ariz.; Jeannette Lusk, Huron; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Osborn, Huron.

\$290 was given in memory of Madeline Ritz by the following people:

Laura J. McArthur, Brookings; R. Esther Erickson, Brookings; Martha and Alton Davis, Walnut Creek, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Loyd Glover, Brookings; Florence Walder, Brookings; Lilyan K. Galbraith, Smithfield, Pa.;

Kathleen Nagle, Brookings; Irene Wentz, Brookings; Lawrence Stine, Brookings; David Pearson, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Barnes, Brookings; Selma Nelson, Granite City, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Carver, Sioux Falls;

Pan-Hellenic Club, Brookings; Celeste M. Harrington, Wentworth; Kathryn M. Berger, West Lawn, Pa.; Mary Eberle, Sioux Falls; Dorothy Stoffel, Brookings; Anita Moore, Walnut Creek, Calif.;

Frances M. Hettler, Brookings; Frank G. Schultz, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Evenson, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Clare Denton, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Redman, Brookings; Raymond Shermoe, Sioux Falls; LaVonne Kellogg, Brookings; Nellie McLoughlin, Brookings; Mr. and Mrs. John Evanoff, Brookings.

"Civilisation" is coming

Lord Clark of Saltwood is prepared to conduct our tour to the bright spots of the Dark Ages; introduce us to such great thinkers as Erasmus and Voltaire, and such stinkers as Francis I and Henry VIII; show us how Marat died and what Leda did.

We are, of course, talking about Lord Kenneth Clark's 13-film series, "Civilisation," to be shown in Alumni Auditorium at the Memorial Art Center at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 28, and Dec. 5 (all Wednesdays). The series is free, and comes to us from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, purchased by them through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts through the South Dakota Arts Council.

Landscape exhibit set for November

An exhibition of awards by the American Society of Landscape Architects will be presented at the Center Nov. 4-Dec. 2. This exhibition has been arranged through the Society and in cooperation with Professor LeRoy Johnson of the Horticulture-Forestry Department, South Dakota State University.

A pair of Harvey Dunn works, *The Prairie Is My Garden*, and *Old Settlers*, will be included in a new book titled *Discovering American History*. The book, by Kownslar and Frizzle, is being printed by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

<p><i>Types of Annual Membership</i></p> <table> <tr><td>STUDENT MEMBER</td><td>\$ 1</td></tr> <tr><td>ACTIVE MEMBER</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>PARTICIPATING MEMBER</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>CONTRIBUTING MEMBER</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>PATRON MEMBER</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>SUPPORTING MEMBER</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>SUSTAINING MEMBER</td><td>500</td></tr> <tr><td>SPONSORING MEMBER</td><td>750</td></tr> <tr><td>LIFE MEMBER</td><td>1,000</td></tr> </table> <p>Gifts and memorials are welcome.</p>	STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 1	ACTIVE MEMBER	10	PARTICIPATING MEMBER	25	CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	50	PATRON MEMBER	100	SUPPORTING MEMBER	250	SUSTAINING MEMBER	500	SPONSORING MEMBER	750	LIFE MEMBER	1,000	<p><i>Charter Membership Application</i> for the <i>South Dakota Memorial Art Center</i></p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Date _____</p>	<p><i>General Membership Privileges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly calendar of events and Members Newsletter Reduced fees for art classes and workshops Reduced subscription rates to leading art magazines Rental and purchase of original works of art through the Sales and Rental Gallery Discounts on most items sold in the Art Center Shop Participation in the Art Center's Tour Program Discounts on Art Center publications Invitations to Member's previews of major exhibitions
STUDENT MEMBER	\$ 1																			
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SUPPORTING MEMBER	250																			
SUSTAINING MEMBER	500																			
SPONSORING MEMBER	750																			
LIFE MEMBER	1,000																			

Center acquires 17 works

Myra Miller (U. S., 1882-1961)

untitled (African lions), date unknown

oil on canvas, 16" x 20"

gift of Don Miller, Pierre

untitled (cat), ca. 1920

oil on canvas, 26" x 24"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (gladiolas), ca. 1920s

oil on canvas, 28" x 12"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (goldenrod), ca. 1920s

oil on canvas, 28" x 15"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (greenwinged teals), ca. 1918

oil on canvas, 24" x 18"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (horses at a trough), ca. 1900

oil on canvas, 20" x 24"

gift of Don Miller

Hunter's Pride, ca. 1912

oil on canvas, 48" x 24"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (pheasants), ca. 1922

oil on canvas, 48" x 24"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (pintails), ca. 1914

oil on canvas, 36" x 20"

gift of Don Miller

untitled (spoonbills), ca. 1938

oil on canvas, 36" x 20"

gift of Don Miller

Sportsman's Pride, ca. 1930

oil on canvas, 36" x 20"

gift of Don Miller

Grant Tyson Reynard (U. S., 1887-1968)

Wet Morning and Rocks, St. Ives, 1923

oil on panel, 12" x 16"

gift of Mrs. Grant Reynard,

Leonia, N. J.

Larry D. Ferguson (U. S., born 1938)

August Evening, 1972

oil on canvas, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 24"

purchase

Carl Grupp (U. S., born 1939)

Study for Trojan Horse, 1973

charcoal on paper, 38" x 31"

purchase

Pam Sheldon Mayes (U. S., born 1939)

untitled, 1973

graphite on paper (triptych),

26" x 120"

purchase

Lloyd R. Menard (U. S., born 1938)

Man and Frog, 1972

pencil and powder on paper,

24" x 34"

purchase

Charles Evans (U. S., born 1943)

Flying Buttress No. 2, 1973

ceramic, 24" high

purchase

April exhibit rescheduled

"A Sense of Place: the Artist and the American Land," an exhibition by the Mid-America Arts Alliance has been scheduled for April 7-28, 1974, and will replace "Diaghilev and Russian Stage Designers," as the South Dakota Memorial Art Center April exhibit.

Center receives \$5,000 grant

Mrs. Robert Lusk, president of the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Art Center, has received word from Nancy Hanks of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D. C., that the Center has been granted \$5,000 on a matching-funds basis as part of the Endowment's Museum Purchase Plan. The grant is to be used to purchase work by two or more living American artists.

McClurg's Monthly Bulletin of New Books, November 1912 was donated to the Art Center's files on Harvey Dunn by Robert Karolevitz, Mission Hill.

The South Dakota Memorial Art Center recently received an American flag from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, George Dokken Post No. 2118, Brookings. The flag was presented to the center in June.