

South Dakota State University

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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

Spring 1999

South Dakota Art Museum News, Spring 1999

South Dakota State University

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Verschoor

South Dakota Native Begins Directorship

On February 3, 1999, a native South Dakotan became the guiding force at the South Dakota Art Museum. Lynn Verschoor, born and raised in Mitchell, South Dakota, is the new museum director.

She replaces former director Lynda Clark Crabtree who resigned in March 1998, to become the executive director of The Journey, a Rapid City museum of natural history. John Awald, director of the Agricultural Heritage Museum served the South Dakota Art Museum as interim director.

The search committee for the director's position, chaired by Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Ed Hogan, received fifteen applications during its nationwide quest to fill the vacancy. From this pool, five candidates were interviewed by the search committee, members of the board of trustees, members of the volunteer guild, staff, and a number of SDSU officials. Ms. Verschoor was selected from the interviewed candidates.

Her background as artist, educator, gallery director, and exhibitions curator provides a strong basis for museum leadership. Verschoor comes to South Dakota from the Loveland Museum and Gallery in Loveland, Colorado, where she has worked as curator of exhibits since 1993. She was a faculty member, as well as, gallery director and slide librarian at Eastern Montana College in Billings from 1988-1991.

After study at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Verschoor received her bachelor of science degree in fine arts and teaching from South Dakota State University in 1979. She went on to earn a master of science degree in 1985, studying information media and instructional design at St. Cloud State University; and she is currently working on a master of fine arts degree in fibers at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Lynn Verschoor is a working artist whose art was recently shown in the 1998 exhibition "Text and Texture" at the Broome Street Gallery in New York City. During her more than twenty years as an exhibiting artist, Verschoor's work has been included in exhibitions nationwide from Tennessee to California. Her earliest exhibitions were at South Dakota's Oscar Howe Art Center in Mitchell, and at the Community Cultural Center in Brookings.

South Dakota State University Vice President for Administration Mike Reger said, "Lynn Verschoor brings to this position excellent knowledge of art and artists, broad-based museum experience, and tremendous enthusiasm for South Dakota State University. We feel she will provide great leadership for the renovated and expanded museum."

Verschoor has relocated to Brookings with her husband, Roy Ervin, and their ten-year-old son, Zach.



"I'm so excited to be back in South Dakota. For me, this is the perfect opportunity to give something back, to South Dakota State University, the Brookings community, and the State. My vision for the South Dakota Art Museum is that of a place full of activity, people, learning and fun."

*Lynn Verschoor
Director*

Groundbreaking

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the South Dakota Art Museum's new wing took place on September 18, 1998. It was held in conjunction with the inaugural festivities for South Dakota State University's President Peggy Gordon Elliott.

The late morning program was well attended by approximately 200 Museum members and community supporters. Acting director John Awald welcomed the guests and introduced a slate of distinguished speakers including President Elliott; South Dakota Art Museum board of trustee's president Ann McKay Thompson of Pierre; board member Larry Ness of Yankton representing building fund donors; South Dakota Arts Council representative Karen Tufty of Flandreau; and South Dakota Art Museum Volunteer Guild president Josie Moyer of Brookings. Other groundbreakers included board of trustee's vice president Jack Stengel of Milbank, and South Dakota State University

Foundation development officer Bonnie Lievan.

Celebrating the culmination of years of planning and fundraising, the groundbreaking ceremony also marked the physical beginning of an expansion project designed to enhance the display and improve storage conditions for the more than 5,500 objects of art at the South Dakota Art Museum. The 8,555-square-foot, 1.8 million dollar addition provides another gallery for exhibitions, an expanded Museum Store area, and increased storage and preparation space. The project also includes renovation of existing galleries, increased office space, and improvements to existing work areas.



From Left: Bonnie Lievan, Jack Stengel, Ann McKay Thompson, Larry Ness, President Elliott, Karen Tufty, Josie Moyer, and John Awald prepare to turn the first symbolic shovelfuls of soil.

This expansion and renovation will allow the South Dakota Art Museum to better serve thousands of guests each year as they visit from around the state, the nation, and the world.

Museum on the Move

After months of meticulous preparation, wrapping, packing and moving, the South Dakota Art Museum is finally empty! The galleries are vacant, the walls are bare, and the hallowed halls echo with the footsteps of visitors past. Secured and climate-controlled rooms at the H. M. Briggs Library on the campus of SDSU safely house the Museum's art collections.

The staff is now at home in temporary quarters. Museum offices and the Museum Store are relocated, and are open in Wecota Hall on the campus of SDSU. The telephone (605)688-5423 and fax (605)688-4445 numbers remain the same.

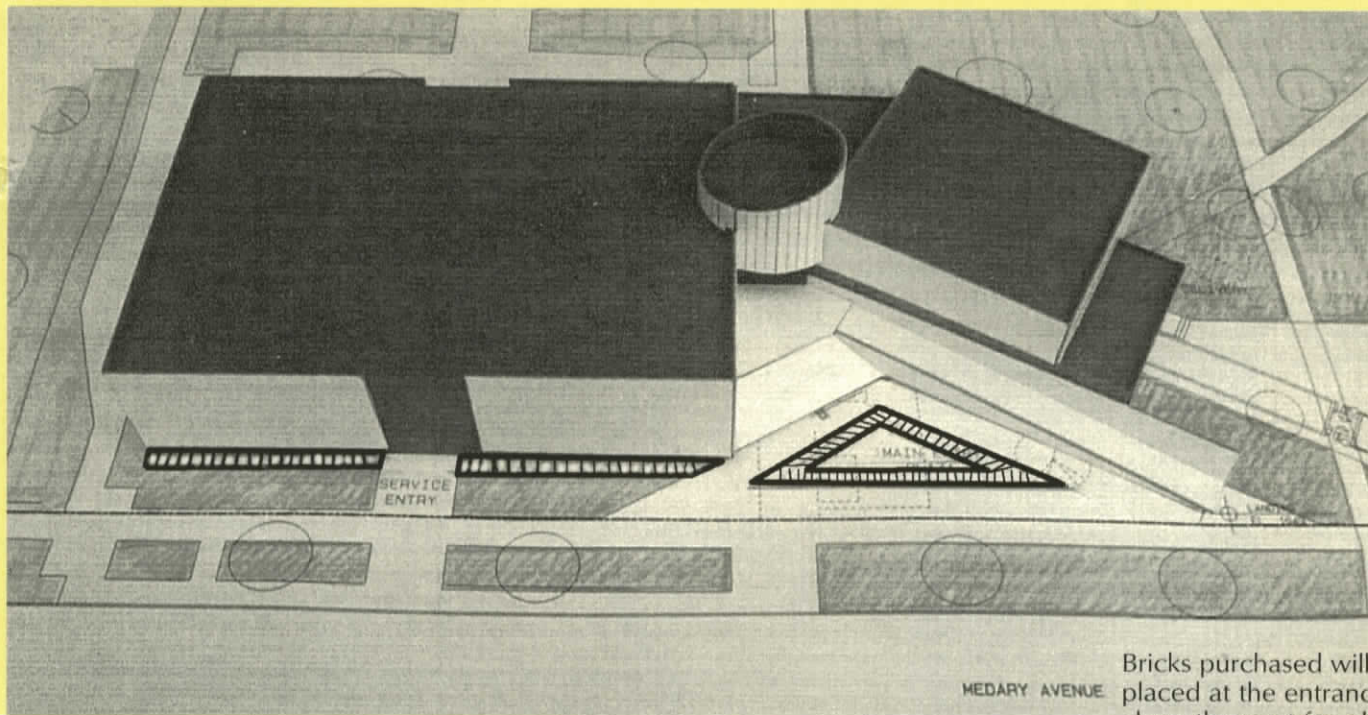
The time that the Museum is closed is being spent entering collection and membership information onto a new museum management software program. The program provides better access to more information about artwork in the collections. Museum policies and procedures are under review in preparation for reaccreditation by the American

Association of Museums. Long range planning sessions are underway to determine the direction and focus of the new Museum.

We look forward to the beginning of the Art Museum construction and renovation project. The expansion will provide increased opportunities for the Museum to fulfill its mission to "...honor the creative nature of mankind and serve as an inspiration to the people of South Dakota."



Top photo: Boxes of books and office supplies packed, wrapped, and waiting to be moved. Bottom photo: Acting exhibitions curator Nancy Hartenhoff building a custom-fit box to transport and store a piece of sculpture.



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

Support the South Dakota Art Museum:

Buy a Brick

Jones
Bob & Mary
1999

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. Funds raised will benefit the Museum's Acquisition Endowment and special programs fund. Reaching the goal of \$750,000 will enable the Museum to collect current works from South Dakota artists. This begins the second phase of the Museum's overall fundraising project.

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

Another Successful Year for Art-in-the-Schools

During the month of March, volunteers from the South Dakota Art Museum completed another successful year of presentations featuring original artwork from the Museum's collections.

Four times during the school year (October, November, February, and March), volunteer presenters take programs into the classrooms of the elementary schools. Averaging 240 presentations annually, the volunteers make over 5000 student contacts as representatives of the Museum.

The program schedule for the 1998-99 school year included the following topics:

October: "Native American Legends and Traditions"—During Native American Month, students learned about the legends and traditions of the Native American culture. This program included Native American art and artifacts, as well as, paintings by Paul Goble.

November: "Mathematical Visions"—This program examined the way that artists consciously and unconsciously incorporate math principles into their artwork. Students studied geometric shapes, grids and patterns, perspective, and symmetry. These concepts were supported by works of art from the Museum's collections.

February: "Surf & Turf"—Seascapes and landscapes from the collections of the South Dakota Art Museum were explored during this program which featured original paintings.

Works from various artists were viewed and discussed.

March: "Please, Don't Feed the Animals!"—This was not a trip to zoo, but works of art that introduced students to animal friends from the Museum. This was a fun look at the principles of art: line, shape, color, and texture.

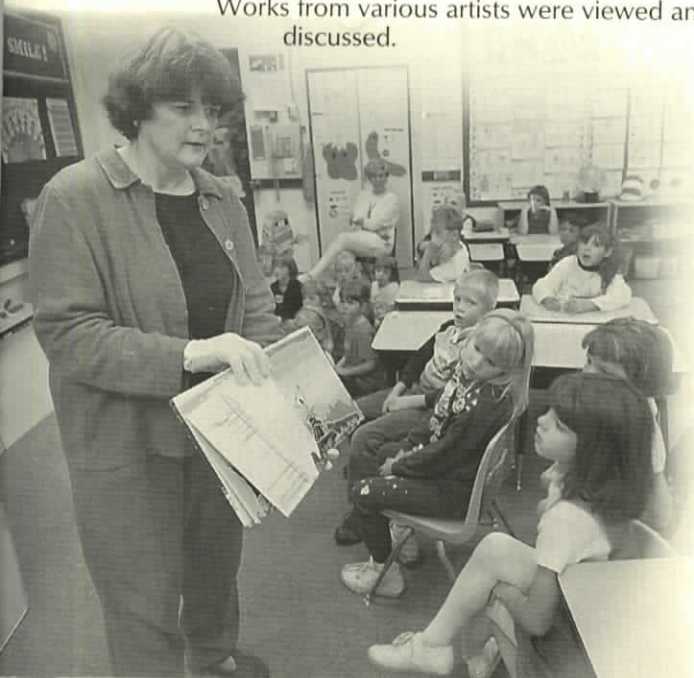
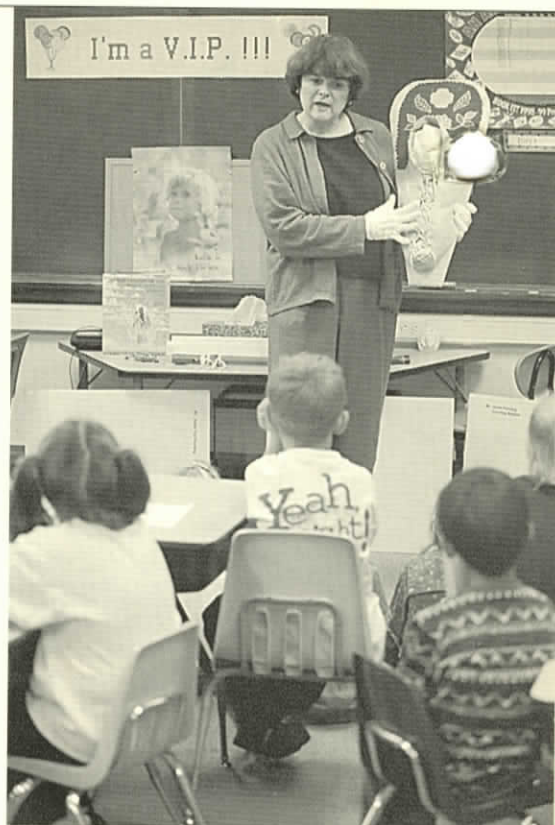
The Art-in-the-Schools program was organized in 1977 by Guild member Carol Koepp and kindergarten teacher Doris Christianson as an art experience program for students in Christianson's kindergarten class.

Over the past twenty-two years, the program has developed to include students in grades one through five at Central, Hillcrest, and Medary Elementary Schools in Brookings. In 1994, Sioux Valley Elementary was added, and Volga Christian School joined the program in 1997. The Fellowship of Christian Home Educated Students (FOCHES) and Dakota Sun Assisted Living Center in Volga are new additions this year.

Each program provides the students with an assemblage of original artwork and/or artifacts from the South Dakota Art Museum's permanent collections. The volunteer presenters are furnished with a prepared script during a program briefing conducted by the curator of education. The presenters then go into the classrooms to share this information with the children in a manner appropriate to the age group.

Art-in-the-Schools is the primary educational project that is supported by the Museum. Although the Museum galleries are now closed for renovation and construction, this program remains active. It is a very important part of the Museum's community outreach, and volunteers are essential to the program's continued success. Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who allow this program to thrive. If you are interested in a volunteer project that is educational, fun, and truly rewarding, call Nancy Rexwinkel, Curator of Education at (605)688-6702.

Volunteer Sue Knutzen presents "Native American Legends and Traditions" to students from Central Elementary in Brookings.



Museum Discovery Tours

Plans are now underway for the first in a series of Museum Discovery Tours. Join the South Dakota Art Museum's staff, for a trip to Minneapolis on June 24 and 25. The itinerary includes tours of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Also included is a visit to the Ordway Music Theatre for a presentation of one of the most spectacular musicals of all-time, *Miss Saigon*. This Tony Award-winning story of two young lovers torn apart by the outside world, and held together by a burning passion, is a powerful masterwork of romance and spectacle that has captured hearts—and awards—around the world.

Have fun! Relax! This two day, one night trip features fine dining and entertainment. The driving and details are left to professionals. Buses depart early Thursday morning, June 24, and return to Brookings by early evening, Friday, June 25.

The cost of the trip is \$205, including travel, lodging, admission fees, and dinner. Bring your spouse, invite a friend, come alone or with a

group. This will be a great way to get to know Lynn Verschoor as she kicks off her tenure at the South Dakota Art Museum.

Sign up early! Seating is limited. The registration deadline is Monday, May 24. Call Deb Archer at the South Dakota Art Museum (605)688-5423. More information and a detailed itinerary are available upon receipt of your registration.

DiscoveryTours

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

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.

A contribution to the Building Fund will be used to construct the Museum's new addition and upgrade the existing facility. Gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Building Fund will be recognized on a plaque permanently displayed in the Museum. Substantial gifts to the building fund may be recognized by naming a gallery or the wing itself with your family name. These naming opportunities are discussed on an individual basis.

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 Logos

New South Dakota Art Museum logos have been designed by Virginia Coudron, artist and graphic designer from SDSU's University Relations. The new designs use variations of two type styles set in different configuration to fit different size, color and orientation needs. The colorful new designs are intended for use on Museum T-shirts, tote bags, and coffee mugs.

These items will soon be available for purchase at the Museum Gift Shop located on the second floor of Wecota Hall. Stop by for a look, or call Deb Archer at (605)688-5423 for more information.



"The arts contribute \$315 billion to the American economy. That's 6% of the gross national product. The nonprofit arts generate almost \$37 billion and create 1.3 million full-time jobs. A city with a healthy, vibrant arts community is a city that is healthy in other ways, too. The arts constitute an urban business strategy."

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Bill Ivey commenting on the economic importance of the arts.

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

2500 copies of this document were printed by the South Dakota Art Museum at a cost of cents each. MA001 4-99



South Dakota State University

The South Dakota Art Museum

Medary Avenue at Harvey Dunn Street
Brookings, South Dakota 57007-0899
(605) 688-5423



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 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

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