

INTRODUCTION

THE WORK OF AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS, FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT, HAS DISPLAYED ASTONISHING VARIETY, RICHNESS, QUALITY AND QUANTITY. LONG BEFORE THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS, INDIAN WOMEN WERE DECORATING POTTERY AND WEAVING BASKETS WITH DESIGNS NOW RECOGNIZED AS MASTERPIECES OF ABSTRACT ART. IN MANY TRIBES THE INDIAN WOMAN WAS THE ARCHITECT--INDEED, HERE IN NEBRASKA THE WOMEN OF THE PAWNEE BUILT THE GREAT-ROUND-EARTH-LODGES. THESE EARTH LODGES ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE PREDECESSORS OF THE SOD HOUSES BUILT BY EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS.

AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS HAVE BEEN INNOVATORS FROM THE BEGINNING. WOMEN WERE AMONG THE EARLIEST PROFESSIONAL PORTRAITISTS IN YOUNG AMERICA. FANNY PALMER WAS NOTED FOR HER LITHOGRAPHS FOR "CURRIER & IVES." HENRIETTA JOHNSTON WAS AMERICA'S FIRST PASTELLIST. IN THE 1770'S PATIENCE WRIGHT GAINED RECOGNITION AS AMERICA'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL SCULPTOR. LATER IN THE 1860'S MARY CASSATT BECAME AMERICA'S FIRST IMPRESSIONIST.

WOMEN HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE, INFLUENTIAL AND CONTINUOUS ROLE IN EVERY TYPE OF ART IN AMERICA. BUT BECAUSE OF LONG-STANDING CULTURAL PREJUDICES AND WIDELY ACCEPTED STEREOTYPES, THEY HAVE BEEN RELEGATED IN BOOKS ON AMERICAN ART TO THE ROLE OF "CIVILIZERS" OR "CARRIERS OF CULTURE," SUCH AS THE PATRONS, COLLECTORS, AND PROMOTERS OF THE ART OF MEN. THOUGH THEIR ROLE AS "CIVILIZERS" CANNOT BE DENIED, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A LARGE NUMBER

OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN ARTISTS WHO HAVE WORKED HARD, LONG, AND SUCCESSFULLY TO EARN A LIVING AT THEIR CRAFT. THEIR LIVES AND WORK ARE VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE COMMONLY HELD STEREOTYPE OF THE WOMAN ARTIST AS AN AMATEUR WORKING ON "DELICATE," "WOMANLY" PROJECTS IN HER HOME.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE STUDY OF AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS SHOWS THAT IN ADDITION TO CRAFT MASTERPIECES SUCH AS THOSE PRODUCED BY FOLK PAINTER, QUILTMAKER, PAINTER OF STILL LIVES AND CHILDREN, THEY HAVE--EVEN IN EARLIER TIMES--CREATED ROBUST, LARGE-SCALE, AND PHYSICALLY TAXING WORKS COVERING A LARGE RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER.

IN THE 1930'S THE FEDERAL ART PROJECT GAVE WOMEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON A SCALE PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF. TODAY WOMEN ARE CREATING EVERY KIND OF AVANT-GARDE ART INCLUDING IMMENSE CONCEPTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS, PERFORMANCES, AND COLLECTIVE FEMINIST PROJECTS. AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS, PREVIOUSLY IGNORED OR UNNOTICED, HAVE BEEN WORKING SERIOUSLY, CONTINUOUSLY, AND PROFESSIONALLY FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES IN THIS COUNTRY.

IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR A NEW MAJOR MUSEUM WILL OPEN ITS DOORS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS WILL JOIN OUR OTHER NATIONAL MUSEUMS ON THE MALL, TAKING ITS PLACE ALONGSIDE THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, THE SMITHSONIAN, ETC. THE MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA ART JOINS IN THIS NATIONAL CELEBRATION BY ORGANIZING AND TOURING NEBRASKA'S WOMEN IN THE ARTS.

PHYLLIS CAMPBELL ASPEN b.1910
YOUNG GIRL
1944 ceramic

LINDA BENTON b.1946
4:00 - THE NAP
1982-83 oil

ALICE CLEAVER (1878-1944)
GIRL WITH PALETTE
oil

ELIZABETH HONOR DOLAN (1887-1948)
ENCHANTED LANDSCAPE
oil

KADY B. FAULKNER (1901-1977)
UNTITLED - LANDSCAPE
1937 ink

MARY BETH FOGARTY b.1943
UNTITLED
1983 - paper construction

DOROTHY VAN H. HARRISON b.1895
RAINY DAY AT THE SHOPPING CENTER
watercolor

SARAH HAYDEN (active ca. 1899-1916)
GIRL IN GREEN
oil

SHEILA HICKS b.1934
HASTINGS VISIT TO THE GREAT PLAINS
1979 linen and cotton

RUTH ROSENFRANS HOFFMAN b.1926
UNTITLED
watercolor and colored pencil

ELIZABETH TUTTLE HOLSMAN (1873-1937/47)
A DROWSY DAY
1915 oil

KATHLEEN KUCHAR b.1942
SPURT
collograph

GLADYS LUX b.1899
CHADRON STATE PARK
watercolor

GLADYS LUX b.1899
UNTITLED - WINTER LANDSCAPE
serigraph

SAMMY LYNN b.1937
WARM ENVIRONMENT
soft sculpture

ELAINE MILLS b.1938
UNTITLED - CENTRAL AVENUE
1982 watercolor

CATHERINE PACIOTTI b.1959
READING IN BED
oil

CORA PARKER (active early 1900's)
GOLDEN HAIR
pastel

CORA PARKER (active early 1900's)
ROSES
oil

GRETCHEN PETERS n.d.
ALETIA'S SUMMER
1983 prismacolor

JEANNE RICHARDS b.1923
MEDICINE MAN
lithograph

VIRGINIA RINDER n.d.
GOLDEN TREE
1978 acrylic

MARION C. SMITH (1873-1970)
LANDSCAPE
watercolor

MARION C. SMITH (1873-1970)
UNTITLED - GRAPES & PEACHES
watercolor

FREDA SPAULDING (1893-1974)
BIRDS AND BEASTS
watercolor

FREDA SPAULDING (1893-1974)
FAMILY
1951 intaglio print

J. DOLORES SPENCER b.1933
FASCINATING GERMINATION
1976 watercolor

AUDREY TOWATER n.d.
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL
oil

LOIS B. WARP n.d.
NEBRASKA GOLD
watercolor

MIRIAM WORLOCK (1895-1985)
REST STOP I-80
1981 watercolor

PHYLLIS C. ASPEN

Born in Broken Bow, Nebraska, she studied at Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Denver. She received her M.S. from Kearney State College in 1959. She currently lives in Lexington, Nebraska, and has works exhibited at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; and Museum of Nebraska Art.

LINDA BENTON

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, she studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for two years, completing her education at the College of Marin in California. She currently resides in Greenwood, Nebraska.

ALICE CLEAVER

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, she studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln under Cora Parker, sometime before 1899. She graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago and then studied further with William Merritt Chase and Cecilia Beaux at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. She also studied in Paris under Lucien Simon and Louis Bilon.

She exhibited in Paris in 1914 while there for study. She was a promising young impressionist until World War I when she was forced to leave Europe--in fact she was on the last boat to leave those shores. "She returned to Falls City and spent the rest of her painting career creating portraits of home-town folks."

ELIZABETH HONOR DOLAN

Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, she studied at the Chicago Art Institute, the Art Students' League in New York, and the Beaux Arts and Julian Academy, both in France.

She is best known for her murals in Morrill Hall at the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Capitol, but her works can also be found in a cathedral and a theatre in France, and Tiffany's and the Chamber of Commerce in New York City.

KATHERINE B. FAULKNER

Born in Syracuse, New York, she went on to study at Syracuse University where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1925 and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in 1938. She studied with George Bridgman, Boardman Robinson, and Hugh Breckenridge at the Art Students' League and the Grand Central Art School in New York City. She also studied with the notable Hans Hoffman.

By profession, she was an educator in college and university art departments as well as an artist. She taught drawing and painting at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln from 1930 to 1950. In 1950 she became Chairman of the Art Department at Kemper Hall, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Her chosen media were painting, etching, lithograph, and serigraph, for which she has received numerous awards and commissions. Her Nebraska commissions include a mural at the U.S. Post Office at Valentine, an altarpiece at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Mitchell, and a mural at Union College Chapel in Lincoln. Her works are also in collections at Brigham Young University, the University of Colorado, the University of Oklahoma and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

She was a member of several learned societies including National Serigraph Society and National Association of Women Artists.

MARY BETH FOGARTY

Born in Omaha, she attended San Jose State College in California, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1964. She studied at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Creighton University, and earned her Master of Arts Degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Since the autumn of 1985, she has been an instructor of sculpture at Creighton University in Omaha.

She has exhibited works at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, The Joslyn, and also Gallery 72 in Omaha.

DOROTHY VAN H. HARRISON

Born in Brooklyn, New York, she began studying at the Art Students' League in New York when she was twenty, under Bridgeman, Harvey Dunn, Charles S. Chapman, and Thomas Fogarty.

She has exhibited in numerous shows on the east coast and most recently a retrospective exhibition was shown in Hastings, her home since 1979.

SARAH HAYDEN

Born in Chicago, Illinois, she studied at the Art Institute in Chicago under Collin Merson. She continued her studies with Lasar in Paris, and then Chase and Dovenack in New York.

She was one of Nebraska's earliest art educators, teaching at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln from 1899-1916. In addition she served as the Director of the School of Fine Arts there from 1900-1901. She is also exhibited at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery in Lincoln.

SHEILA HICKS

Born in Hastings, Nebraska she is an internationally known textile artist with works represented in collections throughout the world.

Ms. Hicks designed Hastings Visit To The Great Plains especially for the Nebraska Art Collection. She commented about this particular work, "I've used a technique little employed so as to give you something new, hopefully."

She has served as consultant to the governments of Mexico, France, Germany, India, Chile and Morocco to stimulate the production of textiles in those countries. She is now working from her studio in Paris, though she continues to be a major influence in textiles.

In the 1920's perceptive collectors became fascinated by primitive painters and folk artists. They suddenly saw in this work the bold, instinctive sense of design and color that sophisticated artists were striving for more consciously.

In recent years, spurred by the women's movement, there has been a growing interest in American Female Folk Art. Women are proudly acknowledging the masterpieces of quilting and needlework and the long tradition of decorative ornament, and are drawing inspiration from them for new contemporary art. Fabric art, soft sculpture, sculptural weaving and self-consciously decorative trends in women's art today reflect this return to their roots.

RUTH ROSEKRANS HOFFMAN

A Lincoln, Nebraska, native, she has both written and illustrated children's books. She has also designed posters.

In 1983 she had an exhibition at the Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda.

She currently resides in West Haven, Connecticut.

ELIZABETH HOLSMAN

Born in Brownville, Nebraska, her training in art was acquired at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In addition to oil painting, she executed a number of bronze war memorials, one of which is on the U.S. destroyer McCormick. Other works are included in the collections of Tarkio College in Missouri, Omaha Society of Fine Arts, the University of Chicago, and the University of Nebraska Law School.

KATHLEEN KUCHAR

This painter and instructor was born in Meadow Grove, Nebraska. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kearney State College in 1963. She went on to receive her Masters Degree from Kansas State College in 1966. She also studied under Max Beckmann in 1966 and with Reuben Tam in 1967 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art School. In 1974 she received a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Wichita State University.

She has exhibited at the Springfield Art Museum in Missouri and has had a one woman show at the National Design Center in New York. She was an art instructor at Minden Public Schools and Assistant Professor of Painting and Design at Fort Hays Kansas State University.

GLADYS LUX

Born in Chapman, Nebraska, she graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1925. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1933 and a Master of Arts Degree in 1935. She also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Gladys Lux taught in Hall County, Sioux City, and at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. For many years she was Chairperson of the Art Department of Nebraska Wesleyan University (1927-67). She resides in Lincoln at present.

SAMMY LYNN

Born in Pryor, Oklahoma, she attended classes at Kearney State College and Hastings College.

She currently lives in Glenvil, Nebraska, and is active in many area art shows and traveling exhibitions.

ELAINE MILLS

Since receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art Education from Kearney State College in 1983, she has been active in Elementary Art Education as well as regional art shows.

She currently lives in Wyoming and has begun working on her Master of Arts Degree in Art Education at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

CATHERINE PACIOTTI

After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, she received a Fellowship for Graduate Work at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, and she has continued her studies there since the autumn of 1986.

One of her exhibited works at Haymarket Art Gallery was awarded first prize in October, 1985, earning her an invitation for a solo exhibition.

CORA PARKER

Born in Kentucky, she trained at the Cincinnati Art Academy and also at the Julien Academy in Paris under Benjamin Constant. She later studied under Leonard Ochtman and William Merritt Chase.

She was the Head of the Department of Art at the University of Nebraska (until 1899?).

She later resided in Greenwich, Connecticut, where she was in charge of the art gallery of the Bruce Museum. Her final move was to Coral Gables, Florida.

GRETCHEN PETERS

A resident of Gering, Nebraska, she is an active participant in the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs, and a frequent exhibitor in regional and state shows.

JEAN H. RICHARDS

Born in Aurora, Illinois, she studied at the University of Illinois, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and under William Hayter. She received her Bachelors' and Masters' Degrees in Fine Arts from the University of Iowa.

Her works have been shown in many galleries and museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, and Seattle Art Museum. In 1959 she had a one woman show at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

In addition to private collections, her works are included in the Society of American Graphic Artists in New York, the Des Moines Art Center, and the University of Nebraska Art Galleries.

VIRGINIA RINDER

A resident of Grand Island, she currently owns the Warehouse Gallery in Grand Island.

She has been instrumental in promoting arts in Nebraska, and an active supporter of art organizations, she is a member of the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs, and exhibits annually with the group.

This exhibited work is typical of the landscapes she has painted during the last several years.

MARION C. SMITH

Born and raised in Lincoln, she graduated from Lincoln High in 1890. She attended Emporia State Teachers College, 1893; The University of Nebraska, 1893; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, 1898; and the Art Institute of Chicago, 1903. Later periods of her extensive education were in Minneapolis, Chicago, Woodstock, and again at the Pennsylvania Academy.

From 1899 to 1902 she traveled and studied throughout South America, especially in Chile, Uruguay and Brazil.

She was accepted to the faculty of "Nebraska Normal School" at Kearney in 1905. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Kearney Teachers College in 1926, and continued to teach until her retirement in 1943.

She is particularly known for her portraits of Indian subjects made on trips to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Although a prolific painter, she rarely exhibited her works. About ten of her works, both in oil and watercolor are in the Nebraska Art Collection.

She died in Kearney in 1970.

FREDA N. SPAULDING

Freda N. Spaulding became active about 1915 and began her studies at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. In 1922 she graduated from Parsons School of Design, New York, and in 1952 she was awarded a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Colorado. She also studied with Josef Albers at Black Mountain College in North Carolina.

She began her teaching career in 1942 at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. During her years there she was an instructor of design, interior decorating, illustrating, and commercial art. She retired from teaching in 1963.

Though she painted with both oil and watercolor, her outstanding achievement was in graphics and printmaking. Her main interest in her own work is in the field of design and color.

Freda N. Spaulding was one of the charter members of the Lincoln Artist Guild.

J. DOLORES SPENCER

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, she began her studies with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1955. She did graduate work at the University of Denver, Adams State College, and Western State College, all in Colorado. In 1976 she received her Masters Degree at Kearney State College. She currently resides in Grand Island.

Ms. Spencer has taught in the public school systems of both Colorado and Nebraska. In 1973 she had a "one woman show" at the Stuhr Museum of Grand Island. She is a watercolorist whose typical subject matter is abstract organic form.

AUDREY TOWATER

A Scottsbluff resident, she began painting on her own.

As an "on-the-spot" artist, she has painted sports events and famous places. Her commissioned works hang at the U.S. Capitol, The Lincoln Center in New York, the New York Stock Exchange, and the Ladies Professional Golf Association offices.

LOIS WARP

Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, she became a resident of Minden, Nebraska. She attended Kearney State College while studying oil painting under Frederick Taubes in New Mexico over the summers.

She has had exhibitions at Platte Valley State Bank in Kearney, Kearney State College and Hastings College. Her works were also featured in "Art and Opera" in Omaha as well as the "Governor's Nebraska Art Show."

MIRIAM WORLOCK

She was born in 1895 in Kearney where she grew up to attend the Kearney Normal School.

An artist for thirty-plus years, she spent many of her earlier days in the studio of her pioneer photographer father, Alfred Anderson.

A long-time friend of the arts, she has given generously to the Kearney State Art Department and the Nebraska Art Collection.