SMAC Gallery to feature photography by Mark Thode

Mark Thode of Pipestone’s exhibit of photography, “Blurred Lines”, will be on display in the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council Gallery from March 8 through April 29, 2016.

Thode’s work encompasses a variety of subjects. “In pursuit of visual expression and storytelling, I find myself going in many different directions. Landscape photography, portraiture of any kind, digital composites, graphic design — they all exist on my canvas. Unfocused, you might say, constantly challenging the arena in which I create, and jumping from one arena to the next. The ‘Blurred Lines’ that separate each of these arenas, are just that for me… blurred. I jump from one to the next in fear of getting artistically trapped. Each of these arenas fulfills me in different ways.”

Though Thode had been taking photographs from a very young age, he became even more interested in photography while completing a Bachelor of Science in Design Technology degree from Bemidji State University. Since then, he has continued to teach himself. “My knowledge and skill in photography is mostly self-taught through trial and error. Photography and graphic design have offered me a form of communication, storytelling and expression. My images and composites are a product of the ‘Blurred Lines’ that present themselves in my everyday life. When looking at [them], you will sense a union of reality and imagined space.

"My canvas is splashed with both elements of the world outside and the digital world, a union of reality and imagined space. I take photographs and create digital art because I want to call attention to what others might overlook; to better understand my reality… and my imagination; to walk less traveled paths and to tell new stories. I hope my work takes you to a place of nostalgia… and even breaks the barriers of your own imagination."

Having returned to his hometown, Thode works for Pipestone Publishing as a full-time graphic designer, and owns and operates Mark Thode Photography & Design. He also serves on the board of directors for the Pipestone Performing Arts Center. Thode was the recipient of an Individual Artist grant from the SW MN Arts Council in 2013.

The public is invited to visit the SMAC art gallery for a reception from 5:00 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 8, 2016. Enjoy acoustic guitar and vocals by Rachel Kuphal, also of Pipestone, during the reception. Regular Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

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UPCOMING SMAC GRANT DEADLINES

SMAC grants must be applied for online. Go to www.swmnarts.org for program guidelines, application tutorial, and the link to the online grant system.

March 1, 2016:
  Monthly Grants: Arts Organization Development, Art Legacy Project Planning*

March 11, 2016:
  Art Projects & Art Legacy Projects, Round II
  Earliest project start date: May 15, 2016

March 31, 2016:
  Art Study Opportunity for Youth
  Earliest project start date: May 15, 2016

April 1, 2016:
  Monthly Grants: Arts Organization Development, Art Legacy Project Planning*

April 15, 2016:
  Nomination Deadline for Prairie Star and Prairie Disciple Awards

*Earliest project start date for monthly deadlines is the 1st of the following month. Check with SMAC to see if funds are still available for monthly grants, which are first come, first served.

SMAC Board welcomes Jones as Chippewa County representative

Georgette Jones of Watson has been appointed as the new Chippewa County board representative for SMAC. Jones teaches English at Lac qui Parle Valley High School, where she is also the fall play director and a speech coach. She was a founding member of the Montevideo Music Boosters and is a board member for Lac qui Parle Players.

She has also been involved with the Marshall Area Stage Company as an actor and director. Her term will run through December 31, 2016.

SMAC Artist Retreat, May 6-7

Join artists from across Southwest Minnesota on May 6 and 7 for the annual SMAC Artist Retreat – this year extended to a day and a half of networking, arts inspiration, and growth opportunities for artists.

The retreat will be held at Danebod Folk School in Tyler, MN for a “get-away” learning atmosphere. On Friday, May 6, sessions and activities will run from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm and on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Overnight lodging is available onsite at the historic folk school.

Workshop sessions have been created to appeal to artists of all disciplines. Three sessions are already in the works, with more to follow:

- MN Artists (www.mnartists.org) will conduct an in-depth workshop where they will tour their website and allow attendees to establish an artist profile with assistance from MN Artists experts.
- Placebase Productions will be conducting theatre workshops
- A professional photographer will be on hand throughout the retreat to capture high-quality images of artwork brought in by the attending artists, for use in their exhibit portfolio or as work-samples required for grants.

Look for more details and registration information coming soon!
Schools and arts organizations awarded $47,627 in SMAC grants

The SW MN Arts Council has awarded $47,627 in grants to area schools and arts organizations under the following programs:

**ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS GRANTS** provide schools in the SMAC region up to $4,000 for artist residencies or up to $2,000 for arts-related field trips that include educator training and community involvement.

Round Lake –Brewster Middle School, Brewster, $4,000 for a junior high painting residency with Bobbie Alsgaard-Lien, resulting in an outdoor mural.

Lester Prairie Schools, Lester Prairie, $3,400 for a “Talking Suitcases” middle school residency with Susan Armington.


**EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** provide community-based arts organizations with up to $5,000 in matching funds for the purchase of equipment items and facilities improvement that will improve the organization’s capacity to serve the arts needs of the SMAC region.

Calumet Players, Pipestone, $2,087 for a new sound board and microphones.

Prairie Arts Chorale, Region-wide, $2,672 to purchase computer, printers, and software for business manager/board use.

**LEGACY EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** provide arts organizations from $5,001 up to $15,000 in matching funds for large-scale equipment & facilities improvements that will leave an arts legacy in Minnesota.

Crow River Drumline Association, Hutchinson, $11,805 for three new marimbas, a concert bass drum, a gong stand, and microphones for the Phoenix Drumline.

Lake Benton Opera House, Lake Benton, $5,398 to continue upgrading their stage lighting.

Willmar Community Theatre (The Barn), Willmar, $12,805 to upgrade their stage lighting.

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**SW MN Arts Council’s programs, grant awards, & workshops** are made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund, by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, and regional contributions.

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**Rachel Kuphal:**

**Acoustic Guitar/Vocals**

March 8, 2016
5:30-6:30 pm
SMAC Gallery
114 N 3rd St, Marshall

During Mark Thode’s exhibit opening reception
MN Arts Advocacy Day, March 17

Join SMAC and other arts lovers on March 17, Minnesota Arts Advocacy Day, to speak to our legislators at the Capitol about the impact that arts funding has had on our lives and our communities.

A message from Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA), which organizes the event:

“Minnesota Citizens for the Arts works to increase arts funding by bringing arts advocates to the State Capitol to talk to their legislators about the importance of the arts to our lives and our economy. Every year about 500 arts advocates join together for a rally at the Minnesota History Center Auditorium in the morning, split up into teams with experienced leaders and walk together to legislator offices to educate them about the arts in their communities and ask them to support arts funding.

“Through this big day, we show the strength of Minnesota’s statewide arts community. Previous Arts Advocacy Days have resulted in significant increases in state arts funding (that goes out in grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils). The Legacy Amendment, which tripled arts funding in 2008, was passed on Arts Advocacy Day!”

Take advantage of this great opportunity to meet other arts advocates from around the state and to let your elected officials know what you think about the arts in Minnesota. Once you register through MCA at www.artsmn.org, let SMAC know if you’d like to ride share to the Capitol. SMAC staff will help coordinate vehicles and pick-up spots throughout the region. Call the SMAC office at 800-622-5284 or 507-537-1471.

MEET YOUR SMAC-REGION LEGISLATORS

| MN House | District 12A: Jeff Backer, Browns Valley |
| District 16A: Chris Swedzinski, Ghent |
| District 16B: Paul Torkelson, Hanska |
| District 17A: Tim Miller, Prinsburg |
| District 17B: Dave Baker, Willmar |
| District 18A: Dean Urdahl, Grove City |
| District 18B: Glenn Gruenhagen, Glencoe |
| District 22A: Joe Shomacker, Luverne |
| District 22B: Rod Hamilton, Mountain Lake |
| District 23A: Bob Gunther, Fairmont |

| MN Senate | District 12: Torrey Westrom, Elbow Lake |
| District 16: Gary Dahms, Redwood Falls |
| District 17: Lyle Koenen, Clara City |
| District 18: Scott Newman, Hutchinson |
| District 22: Bill Weber, Luverne |
| District 23: Julie Rosen, Fairmont |

ARTS ADVOCACY DAY SCHEDULE

- 7:30 am Doors open at the MN History Center, St. Paul
- 8:00 am Advocacy class for new attendees
- 8:00 am Registration & coffee (if not attending class)
- 8:30 am Update on Creative MN Project
- 9:00 am Rally & join your team, then walk/ride to the Capitol
- 10 am- 2 pm Legislator appointments with your team at the Capitol, Senate & State Office Building

REGISTRATION

To register for MN Arts Advocacy Day, go to MCA’s new website, www.artsmn.org.

If you can’t attend Arts Advocacy Day in person, contact your legislators via email through MCA’s website.
SMAC seeks nominations for 2016 Prairie Star & Prairie Disciple awards

The SW MN Arts Council is seeking nominations of artists and arts advocates from the southwest Minnesota region for its 2016 Prairie Star and Prairie Disciple awards.

Since the accomplishments of these individuals are often not widely known or appreciated, SMAC hopes to raise the profile of the arts in our communities and throughout our region by recognizing them publicly.

The Prairie Star Award recognizes an artist whose body of work has made a significant contribution to the arts over an extended period of time and who has best exemplified the highest quality of work in the SMAC region. The work involved may have taken place within the past few years or be an accumulation of life-work.

Recent recipients of the Prairie Star Award include Emily Lodine, Magnolia; Malena Handeen, Milan; Bill Gossman, New London; Robert Whitcomb, Marshall; Dan Rieppel, Cottonwood; and Karen Jensen, Milan.

The Prairie Disciple Award recognizes an individual whose activities and involvement have substantially contributed to the arts in southwest Minnesota. In 2016, SMAC is accepting nominations of teachers/educators only. Again, the activities involved may have taken place within the past few years or be a lifetime of contribution.

Recent recipients of the Prairie Disciple Award include Raeanne Gisanson, Willmar; John Voit, Ghent; Jerry Deuschle, Luverne; Tricia Mkle, Worthington; Nancy Geiger, Willmar; and Ruth McKinney, Walnut Grove.

Visit our website for complete lists of past award recipients.

Nomination instructions and forms are available on the SW MN Arts Council website at www.swmnarts.org. The nomination deadline for both awards is Friday, April 15, 2016.

Call to Artists: 4th Annual Hutchinson Sculpture Stroll

The Hutchinson Public Arts Commission created the Sculpture Stroll in 2013 as a way to showcase work from regional artists and to beautify public spaces in line with the city’s “Imagine Hutchinson” planning effort, with the intent to install 6 original pieces of temporary outdoor art yearly. This year’s exhibit will be shown from May 2016 to May 2017.

All artists selected to exhibit will receive a $1,000 honorarium, and the People’s Choice Award winner will receive a $500 prize.

This call is open to all artists --- professional, amateur, and student --- who submit work of high quality, conceptual strength, and originality. All artists may submit up to three (3) separate sculptures. There is no entry fee. Details and application form available at hutchinsonpublicarts.com.

Applications must be received by March 9th, 2016. Notification of artist selection will take place the week of March 14th. Installation is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th.

Hutchinson Public Arts Commission also welcomes submissions throughout the year from artists who are interested in donating their art for public display in the city of Hutchinson. Submitted artwork will be considered at the next board meeting, and the artist will be notified shortly thereafter.
**MARCH ARTS EVENTS**

*Indicates the project was funded in part with a grant from SMAC with funds provided by the McKnight Foundation, the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, or by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund.*

*March 1 SMAC Grant Application Deadline: Arts Org Development, Legacy Project Planning, Start-up Grants. Applications due by 4:30 pm.*

**March 4: Artist Reception: District 518 Student Art Show**, 5:00-7:00 pm, Nobles County Art Center, 407 12th St, Worthington.

**March 5 HCA: A Night for the Arts**, 5:00 pm – 12:00 am, Crow River Country Club, 915 Colorado St NW, Hutchinson. Hutchinson Center for the Arts’ Kentucky Derby-themed fundraiser with dinner, raffle, live music, and dancing. Come in derby attire! Details and tickets at [www.hutchinsonarts.org/gala/](http://www.hutchinsonarts.org/gala/).

**March 5 The Barn Theatre Volunteer Expo**, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, The Barn Theatre, 321 4th St, Willmar (enter from 230 Becker Ave during renovations). Get a full tour of The Barn Theatre and learn about all of the volunteer opportunities available. All ages welcome. For information on volunteering, contact Thomas at 235-9500 or thomas@thebarntheatre.com.

*March 8 Artist Reception: Mark Thode*, 5:00-7:00 pm, SMAC Gallery, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall. Live music by Rachel Kuphal from 5:30-6:30 pm.

**March 8 Tonic Sol Fa**, 7:00 pm, Memorial Auditorium, 714 13th St, Worthington. Friends of the Auditorium present a cappella group Tonic Sol Fa. Tickets and information at [www.friendsoftheauditorium.com](http://www.friendsoftheauditorium.com) or 507-537-9101.

**March 11 SMAC Grant Application Deadline: Art Project & Art Legacy Project Grants**. Applications due by 4:30 pm.

*March 11-12 "Pinocchio", 7:00 pm, YME High School Auditorium, 450 9th Ave, Granite Falls. Prairie Fire Theatre and Yellow Medicine East students (Grades 3-8) present "Pinocchio".

**March 11-13 & 18-20 "A Year with Frog & Toad", 7:30 pm**, The Palace Theatre, 104 E Main St, Luverne. Green Earth Players present a whimsical musical that tells the story of two best friends, the cheerful frog and the curmudgeonly toad. Children and adults will enjoy the catchy tunes, funny dialogue, and bright memorable characters. Information on Facebook: Green Earth Players.

*March 12 SMAC Grant Review Panel: Individual Artists, 9:00 am, SW MN Arts Council, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall.*

**March 17 MN Arts Advocacy Day**, Minnesota History Center and Minnesota Capitol, St Paul. Join the SW MN Arts Council along with artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters from around the state as we meet with our legislators to encourage continued support for the arts. Go to [http://artsmn.org/act/events/arts-advocacy-day/](http://artsmn.org/act/events/arts-advocacy-day/) for more information and to register. Contact the SW MN Arts Council at info@swmnarts.org or 800-622-5284 to ask about carpooling.


**March 19 Artist Reception: Joshua Wilichowski**, 1:00-3:00 pm, Hutchinson Center for the Arts, 15 Franklin St SW, Hutchinson.

**March 19 Gone Country Variety Show**, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm, Memorial Auditorium, 714 13th St, Worthington. Friends of the Auditorium present a variety show featuring local talent with a live band. Tickets and info at [www.friendsoftheauditorium.com](http://www.friendsoftheauditorium.com) or 507-537-9101.


*March 21 & 22 Jazz Concerts: Mike Clark with SMSU & Area High School Jazz Bands*, 7:30 pm, Marshall & Glencoe. March 21 with Marshall High School jazz bands at Schwan Community Center for the Performing Arts (MHS), 400 Tiger Dr, Marshall. March 22 with Glencoe-Silver Lake jazz bands at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, 1621 16th St E, Glencoe. Clark, an active drummer in New York who has performed with many of the greats the past few decades, is conducting residencies with jazz ensembles at SMSU, Marshall High School and Glencoe-Silver Lake High School. For more info, contact Dr. John Ginocchio at john.ginocchio@smsu.edu or 507-537-7209.

**March 22 SMAC Board Meeting**, 7:00 pm, Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, 114 N 3rd St, Marshall.

*March 31 SMAC Grant Application Deadline: Art Study Opportunity for Youth*. Applications due by 4:30 pm.
GALLERIES

*SMAC Art Gallery. 114 N 3rd St, Marshall. March 8 through April 29: Mark Thode, photography. Reception March 8, 5:00-7:00 pm, with live music by Rachel Kuphal from 5:30-6:30 pm. Visit the gallery M-F from 8:00 am - noon & 1:00 - 4:30 pm.

Clay Coyote Pottery. 17614 240th St, Hutchinson. Hours are Mon - Sat 10 - 5 PM; Sunday Noon - 4 PM, or, call ahead for an appointment, 320-587-2599. Check out www.claycoyote.com or email claypot@hutchtel.net.

*Hutchinson Center for the Arts. 15 Franklin St SW, Hutchinson. February 1 through March 19: Joshua Wilichowski, “You’re the One I Need”. Reception March 19, 1:00-3:00 pm. Gallery Hours: Monday –Thursday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Information at 320-587-7278 or www.hutchinsonarts.org.

*KK Berge Gallery (Granite Area Arts Council). 807 Prentice St, Granite Falls. Gallery hours Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Information at 320-564-4240 or www.facebook.com/GraniteAreaArtsCouncil.

*Marshall Area Fine Arts Council (MAFAC). 109 N 3rd St, Marshall. March 1 through April 8: Lyon County High School Art Stars. Gallery Hours: Tues - Fri 12:00-5:30 pm, Sat 11:00 am—3:00 pm. Info at 507-532-5463 or www.mafac.net.

Milan Village Arts School. Junction of MN Highway 7/59 and MN Highway 40, Milan. For information on upcoming classes, call 320-734-4807 or visit milanvillageartsschool.org.

Nobles County Art Center. 407 12th St, Worthington. March: Worthington District 518 Student Art Show. Reception March 4, 5:00-7:00 pm. Hours: M-F 2:00-4:30 pm. Information at 507-372-8245.


Renville Public Library, 221 Main St N, Renville. Mary Schroepfer, paintings. Hours: MWF 12:30-5:30pm, Tues 10 am-4 pm, Thurs 12:30-8 pm.

Ridgewater College Gallery—Hutchinson. Adjacent to Commons, 2 Century Avenue SE, Hutchinson. Info at www.ridgewater.edu or 320-234-8518.


Robert Remick Gallery/Cottonwood County Historical Society. 812 Fourth Ave, Windom. Through March 26: “Give It Your Best Shot: Focus on Cottonwood County Cemeteries”, local photographers. Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri 8 - 4 PM & Sat 10 - 4 PM. For more info, call 507-831-1134 or email cchs@windomnet.com.

Tokheim Pottery. 2057 361st Ave, Dawson. Visit www.tokheim-stoneware.com for more info about the gallery or call 320-769-2142 or email info@tokheim-stoneware.com.


Do you or your organization have a performance, exhibit, class, or other arts event coming up?

Use our event submission form at www.swmnarts.org or email us at info@swmnarts.org to get your event posted on SMAC’s area arts events calendar online and in our newsletter.

Newsletter deadline for April events: March 22, 2016.

Memberships & Donations Received
January 22 - February 22, 2016

Swift County Commission, Benson • Deb Connolly, Danvers • Gene Stukel Photography, Granite Falls • Paul Jones & Lori Grote, Jackson • Carol & Tim Ceynowa, Luverne • Lac qui Parle Broadcasting, Madison • Lac qui Parle County Commission, Madison • Lyon County Commission, Marshall • Charles & Rita Carrera, Marshall • Susan McLean, Marshall • Mary Kay Thomas, Marshall • Chippewa County Commission, Montevideo • A. Eric Anderson, New London • Renville County Commission, Olivia • Charles & Laurie Ness, Pipestone • William & Mary Ann Yseth, Pipestone • Redwood County Commission, Redwood Falls • Georgette & Kyle Jones, Watson • Kandiyohi County Commission, Willmar • John & Kari Gilbertson, Willmar • Cottonwood County Commission, Windom • Prairie Arts Continuum, Windom • Nobles County Commission, Worthington •
Has your membership expired?  If your address label shows that your membership has expired, this may be the last issue of VOICES you will receive in the mail.  Please use the form at the bottom of this page to renew your membership now.

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF

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SW MN Arts Council Membership Form

Join SMAC today and have your money doubled. The McKnight Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar any new or increased donations to SMAC.

Contributions are tax-deductible. Mail your membership donation to SW MN Arts Council, PO Box 55, Marshall, MN 56258.

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LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIPS:

- $500.00 + Benefactor
- $499.00 - $250.00 Patron
- $249.00 - $100.00 Sustainer
- $99.00 - $50.00 Supporter
- $49.00 - $25.00 Contributor
- Business & Organizational memberships starting at $50.00

Please consider making a gift to SMAC as a memorial or in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion.