

VOICES

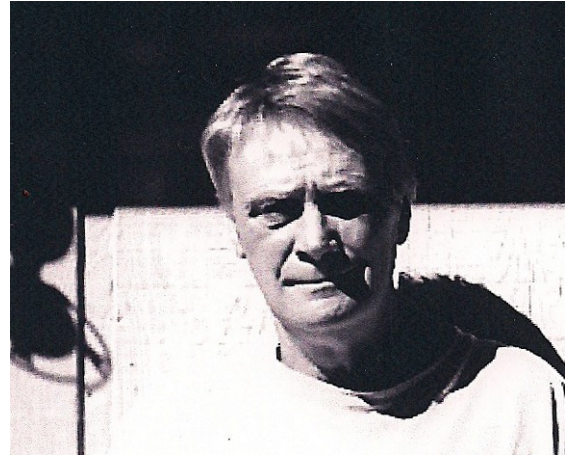
~ MAY - JUNE, 2009 ~

THE PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL, INC.

Robert Mattson SMAHC 2009 Prairie Star

We are proud to present Robert Mattson as the SMAHC Prairie Star for 2009. New London artist Andrew Nordin nominated Mattson for this award. He writes, "Bob has been making art as a professionally trained artist in the Willmar/New London area for the last 40 years. During this time, he has displayed integrity of commitment to his craft at a level that is reserved and categorized as being of the highest achievement."

Mattson grew up in Willmar. It was a different place than it is now, a much smaller and more closely knit community. There were many community events during those days like Willmar Rails Baseball games and Golden Gloves boxing that drew huge crowds. And, of course, it was pre-TV, so kids ran free without parental worries. It was a safe place to grow up and learn.



It was against this backdrop that Mattson first became interested in art and painting as a 3rd or 4th grader. He attended the Willmar public schools through his graduation from Willmar High School. He then went on to Willmar Community college and St Cloud State University for both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Mattson notes that at SCSU, he met David Brown, a painting professor who took him under his wing and assured him constantly in those formative years and remained his life-long friend and mentor and champion of his work. Mattson states, "He was my 'art daddy'."

Mattson was hired at Willmar State Jr. College in 1967 at the age of 24. After one year he was drafted and spent four years in the Navy. He returned in 1972 and taught until his retirement in 2003. Mattson has stayed in this area because of his love for teaching and the realization that this might be the best way for him to make a contribution to the arts.

Ted Sherarts, art professor at St. Cloud State University states, "For the past 30 years, I've thought Bob Mattson was among the best Minnesota painters, but after seeing his exhibition at St. John's University last year, I've come to believe that among nonrepresentational artists he IS the best. What dawned on me then was his remarkable ability to simultaneously ravish the eye and stimulate the mind, a phenomena rare in a contemporary scene where usually one of those goals is ambitious enough."

Mattson has some advice for aspiring artists. He says to be very careful. "A study in the 80's revealed that only one percent of students pursuing art seriously as a career choice thought they'd make any money. It's been said that it's a wonderful way of life (it is!) but a very poor way to make a living. Sometimes you get lucky as I did, and find an art related career that can support your "habit." Of all my college classmates only three of us continue to create art. Only one of us is able to support himself solely through his art. It isn't me, by the way."

Continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE

**SMAHC Annual Celebration
will be held on**

OCTOBER 24, 2009

**at the Willmar Conference Center
(Willmar Holiday Inn)**

**We will be honoring the
2009 Prairie Star and the
2009 Prairie Disciple
PLEASE JOIN US!!!**

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SMAHC Region Loses 2 Esteemed Artists/Arts Advocates

Two artists and tireless arts advocates who have done so much for the arts in Southwest Minnesota passed away recently.

Bill Holm, writer, poet and long time professor at Southwest Minnesota State University passed away on February 25, 2009. Holm had an association with SMAHC for over 30 years. He participated in many SMAHC events including being a keynote speaker at SMAHC Annual Meetings, participating with SMAHC advocates at Advocacy Day at the Capital, receiving the Prairie Star Award, and presenting the Prairie Star award to fellow professor Dr. Daniel Rieppel. Holm was always generous with the giving of his time to help further the arts. You can find many links with tributes to Bill Holm on the SMAHC website at <http://smahc.org/holm.htm> and you can see some pictures of the many affiliations he had with SMAHC.



Ruth McKinney passed away on March 18, 2009. McKinney was a longtime volunteer and grant panelist for SMAHC going back to 1989. She served on all 3 of SMAHC's grant panels over many of those years. She was instrumental in developing the SMAHC Rubric for Grant Panelists for the Arts & Learning program and the Art Projects program. This tool has greatly helped SMAHC grant panelists in their task of reviewing and rating the various grants. She was a wonderful artist in her own right, a painter and a sculptor, and together with her husband, operated Blackhawk Studios (www.blackhawk-studios.org/). Ruth, along with her husband, Joel are founding members of Tan-tanka Arts (www.tatankaarts.org/). You can read more about Ruth McKinney on the SMAHC Website (www.smahc.org/mckinney.htm).

We will greatly miss these individuals as they have done so much for SMAHC and for the arts.

Mattson - Continued from Page One

Mattson states that it is difficult to name his favorite artists since he admires so many. Teaching art history all of his life made it difficult to not appreciate many, many artists from all periods and of all persuasions. He likes all good art and artists. From a philosophical or theoretical vantage point he was influenced most by the Formalists. To name just a few artists that were maybe more important in shaping him than others he listed Mondrian, deKooning, Raushenberg, Ad Reinhardt, Cy Twombly, Guston, Diebenkorn and others but he has learned enormous amounts about the nature and practice of art from countless others.

Mattson has many ways to keep himself curious and occupied. He likes to make things. He reads a lot of different kinds of things both fiction and nonfiction as well as poetry. He has an uneducated interest in music of all kinds, And he is incurably addicted to fly fishing and fly tying. He also makes art for about 6 hours each day although art is not his hobby.

Mattson is married to Marjorie Nilssen, an artist of enormous talent. He states, "She is lovely gifted, funny, kind and a devoted wife." He also has a delightfully fine son, Ted, of whom he is extremely proud, a daughter-in-law, Nina who is his dear and cherished friend and two beautiful grandsons, Theo, age 9 and Tristan, soon to be 1.

In an exhibit in which his work is currently included he provided the following brief statement. It is not inclusive of all of his feelings and beliefs regarding his work but it is sufficient for the time being. "I have always felt, and still do, that art was a search for the sublime via the vehicles of beauty and mystery. I have looked for it in odd places often using strange materials and unusual methods. If I can stay out of my own way long enough to discover it I am always delightfully surprised. I have been able to surprise myself with some regularity for about fifty years."

We congratulate Robert Mattson on his contributions to the arts in Southwest Minnesota and upon being awarded the SMAHC Prairie Star Award for 2009. This award will be presented at the SMAHC Annual Celebration which will be held on October 24, 2009 at the Willmar Conference Center (Willmar Holiday Inn).

SMAHC Awards \$68,649 in Art Projects and Local Arts Development Grants

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Minnesota Arts & Humanities Council voted to award a total of \$68,649 to local arts organizations under the **SMAHC Arts Project Grant Program** and the **Local Arts Development Grant Program**. The SMAHC Arts Project Grant Program provides area organizations with up to \$4500 in matching funds to produce or present high quality arts events. The SMAHC Local Arts Development Grant Program provides up to \$4000 in matching funds to local arts organizations to strengthen their capacity to provide quality arts activities.

The most recent grant awards recipients in the **SMAHC Arts Project Grant Program** are:

- **Plum Creek Library System**, \$3,205 for their Summer Reading Program with Ramona Larson
- **Cultural Awareness Organization**, \$1,700 for the International Festival in Worthington
- **Friends of the Orchestra**, \$2,300 for the SW Minnesota Orchestra Fall Concert in Marshall
- **Walnut Grove Community Club**, \$4,500 for the 2009 Music & Art Family Festival
- **Marshall Area Stage Company**, \$3,033 for the Musical Production of the "The Sound of Music"
- **Marshall Area Fine Arts Council**, \$4,500 for 9 Visual Arts Exhibits
- **Lac qui Parle Valley Community Education**, \$2,000 for the Musical Production "Oklahoma"
- **Hutchinson Theatre Company**, \$1,450 to develop & launch of a 4 Week Youth Program
- **Pipestone Civil War Days Committee**, \$4,500 for the Pipestone Civil War Days
- **Marshall Area Fine Arts Council**, \$1,369 for the presentation "A World of Music" with Todd Green
- **Willmar Area Arts Council**, \$3,000 for the 2009 Studio Hop
- **Redwood Area Theatre**, \$4,500 for the Musical Production of "Annie"
- **Prairie Oasis Players from Slayton**, \$2,210 for the Musical Production "Oliver"
- **Litchfield Community Education**, \$1,300 for the presentation "A World of Music" with Todd Green
- **Willmar Area Arts Council**, \$2,250 for the 2009 Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee!
- **Prairie Arts Chorale**, \$1,997 for the Spring Concert "Voices of the 60's-A Magical Musical Tour"
- **Peer None Players**, \$2,637 for the production of "Bunnica"
- **Milan MOVERS**, \$2,546 for the Taste of Syttende Mai, 2009
- **Rhythm of the River**, \$4,090 for the 3rd Annual Rhythm of the River in Jackson
- **Granite Falls Community Theatre**, \$2,790 for the Musical Production "Guys & Dolls"
- **Norwegian Heritage Committee from Hendricks**, \$900 for the Syttende Mai Celebration "Well, That's Different"
- **Rock County Board of Commissioners from Luverne**, \$2,250 for the Music, Meals, & Meander in the City Park.
- **Meander Artists**, \$3,375 for the Upper Minnesota River Valley Meander, 2009

The most recent grant award recipients in the **SMAHC Local Arts Development Program** are:

- **Prairie Arts Continuum**, Windom in the amount \$2,360 for the purchase 6 wireless lavalier microphones
- **Greater Litchfield Opera House Association** in the amount \$3,887 for renovating the Opera House lobby including Framing, Lobby, Walls, Stairs, Balcony

Challenge Grants, Networking Grants and Cultural Bank Insurance Awarded this Fiscal Year

SMAHC has awarded 4 **Challenge Grants** in the amount of \$500 each to the following organizations:

- **The Greater Litchfield Opera House Association** for a membership challenge
- **The Willmar Area Arts Council** for their membership challenge drive
- **Tatanka Arts**, Redwood Falls, for a membership challenge drive
- **Prairie Music Association**, Slayton, for their membership challenge drive

SMAHC has awarded 3 **Arts Organization Networking Grants** in the amount of \$500 each to the following organizations:

- **Friends of the Auditorium**, Worthington, to attend the 21st Annual Midwest Arts Conference
- **Milan Village Arts School** for a trip to the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts
- **Big Stone Arts Council** for visits to Springboard for the Arts, Arts & Design Consultant, the Inspire Arts Program and Arts in Healthcare monthly meeting.

SMAHC has approved 2 **Cultural Bank** grants of \$400 each to the following organizations:

- **Hutchinson Theatre Company** for the production of "Once Upon a Mattress"
- **Business, Arts & Recreation Center**, Windom, for the St. Olaf College Vikings Men's Chorus concert

Check the Web! We will be posting the new application deadlines and application forms for Fiscal Year 2010 in June on the SMAHC website. Check it out at www.smahc.org.

GALLERY LISTINGS

Nobles County Art Center, 407 12th Street, **Worthington**; May 2, Second Biennial Quilt Show, 1:30 to 4:00 PM; this exhibit runs through June 2nd; **June 7—26**, Kelly Henkels mixed media & painting; Gallery hours are 2pm to 4:30pm; Admission is FREE; Call 507-372-8245 for information

Marshall Area Fine Arts Council (MAFAC) - April 14 - May 16, Lyon County HS Art Stars; **May 16-June 20**, Works by local Native American area artists in a variety of mediums. **June 23—July 25** Sculpture by John Sterner Exhibit. 109 N. 3rd Street, **Marshall**. 507-532-5463. Hours: Tues-Fri 11-4:30 pm & Sat 11-2 pm. Free; Visit www.mafac.net

Crow River Art's High School Youth Art Exhibit - April 30th - May 9th, Hutchinson Mall, Hwy 15, **Hutchinson**; Free; Opening Night will be Thursday, April 30th, from 6:00 - 8:30 PM with Hutchinson and GSL High School Students reading original works throughout the evening and refreshments being served. Other dates and hours for the exhibit are: Friday, May 1st, from 3:00 - 6:00 PM; Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Thursday, May 7th, from 3:00 - 6:00 PM; Friday, May 8th, from 3:00 - 6:00 PM; and Saturday, May 9th, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. For more information, visit www.crowriverarts.org or email info@crowriverarts.org

Java River Cafe in Montevideo; As a regional center of cultural activity, Java River promotes art exhibits and regular concerts featuring artists from throughout Southwestern Minnesota. Website: www.javarivercafe.com

Milan Village Arts School in Milan classes offered in May and June include Whimsical Bark Carving, Beginning Silver-smith, Tin Whistle Workshop, Silver Bracelet, Photographing People, Advanced Silversmith, The Spoon Gathering, Calligraphy Workshop, Shibori Pkg. Weekend & Concert, Plenn Air Landscape Painting, Basic Broom See the complete list at www.milanvillageartsschool.org

Tatanka Arts & Fieldstone Vineyards, Art Show & Sale, May 9-10 & 16-17, 38577 State Hwy 68, **Morgan**; free admission, local artists display artwork in the barn & gift shop.

Tatanka Arts & Minnesota Inventors Congress, June 12-13, Redwood Falls; Art fair & Inventors Congress, free admission, Redwood Valley School Field House

The WEAC Gallery - Willmar Education and Arts Center is located at 611 Fifth Street SW, **Willmar**. For more information, Call (320) 231-8560.

Robert Remick Gallery/Cottonwood County Historical Society, "You Gotta Have Art," featuring the art work of artist Joseph LaCanne; A reception will be held on May 3rd from 2 to 4 PM; Admission is free, refreshments will be provided; 812 Fourth Avenue, **Windom**; Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Contact the museum for the yearly schedule (507) 831-1134

The Barn Gallery, 321 4th St. SW, **Willmar**, (320) 235-9500, www.thebarntheatre.com

Tokheim Stoneware 2057 361st Avenue, **Dawson**; visit their website at www.tokheim-stoneware.com

Clay Coyote Pottery 17614 240th St. **Hutchinson**; See www.claycoyote.com for gallery hours or email Betsy or Tom at claypot@hutchtel.net;

Daily Grind Gallery, 316 W. Main St., **Marshall**, (507) 537-9565 features new artwork monthly

May

May 1 Deadline for Art Study Opportunity Grant for Educators

*****SEE MORE Calendar Events and Opportunities on the SMAHC website at www.smahc.org**

What's Happening? ...Get it in VOICES

...in the arts and/or humanities in your area that you would like to publicize?
Submit upcoming events for the July/September VOICES by **June 15, 2009**.

Date(s): _____ Times: _____
 Sponsoring Organization(s): _____
 Name of Event: _____ Admission: _____
 Location: _____ City: _____
 Contact person for inquiries: _____ Phone: _____
 Name of person completing this form: _____
 Phone & e-mail address: _____
 Brief Description of Event: _____

May 2 Arts & Learning and Individual Artist Study Opportunity Panel Meeting, SMAHC Offices, **Marshall**;

May 1 - 3 Prairie Arts Chorale presents "Voices of the '60s: A Magical Musical Tour" performing on May 1 at the Estebo Performing Arts Center, Redwood Falls High School, **Redwood Falls**, 7:30 PM; May 2 at Little Theater, **New London**, 7:30 PM; May 3 at Marshall Middle School, **Marshall**, 4:00 PM; Tickets for all performances are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Visit the website at <http://www.prairieartschorale.org/> for more information, or email dazy@willmarnet.com

May 2 Pipestone Performing Arts in Pipestone presents "The Classic Return," 8:00PM (New Show); For ticket information, call 877 722-2787 or email dhansen110@mchsi.com

May 3 Old Time Fiddlers of South Dakota performing at the Lake Benton Opera House, **Lake Benton**; For more information, call 507-247-3833 or email mk.wilmes@mchsi.com

May 4 & 5 Auditions for Annie at the Barn Theatre, **Willmar**; 7:00 PM; More information: call the Barn at 235-9500

May 8 & 9 Artist Business Skills Workshops at the Horse Barn Arts Center, 208 E. Falls Park Dr., **Sioux Falls, SD**; the workshops include Free introduction session & discussion (Friday, 6:30 PM), Pricing your Work: Getting Paid for What You Do (Saturday, 10 AM to 12 PM, and Artists and Web 2.0 (Saturday, 1:30 to 3:30 PM) Advance registration is required; Cost is \$45 per workshop; the Friday introduction session is free; Contact the Siioux Empire Arts Council at 605-977-2002 or email barn@siouxempireartscouncil.com; Sessions are put on by Springboard for the Arts.

May 8-9 Syttende Mai Celebration "Well That's Different" Christ Lutheran Church 104 E Henderson St **Hendricks**; For more information, email robertat@itctel.com

May 9 Fiddle Concert musical play "Hard Times in Hendricks" 200 E. Lincoln, Lincoln HI Elementary Big Gym, **Hendricks**, For more information, email robertat@itctel.com

May 9 The Brett Family Concert, Memorial Auditorium, **Worthington**; 7:30PM; For memberships and information call 507/376-6748 or 507/478-4957

May 9, The Fringe Band & Maggie & Friends, performing at Little Crow Theatre, **New London**; Folk Bluegrass, Rock. 7:00 PM; Tickets are \$5 - available at the door. For more information, email newlondonlittletheatre@yahoo.com

May 13 & 14, Lori Line performing at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center, **Pipestone**; Solo piano & small group ensemble, 7:30 PM. For ticket information, call 877 722-2787 or email dhansen110@mchsi.com

May 15-17 Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, RTR's High School Play, at the Lake Benton Opera House, **Lake Benton**; For more information, call 507-247-3833 or email mk.wilmes@mchsi.com

May 16 Taste of Syttende Mai 2009, Milan; 10 am to 4 pm; Share music, traditional foods, crafts & art, complete with a parade & a Maypole performance. For more information, email bluesqueen@gmail.com

May 26, SMAHC Board Meeting, SMAHC Offices, **Marshall**

June

June 5 Little Crow Theatre, New London, Jeff Cahill Concert; 7 PM; For more information, email newlondonlittletheatre@yahoo.com

June 11-13, 17-20, 24-26 at 7:30 pm and **27th** at 3:00 pm "Bunnacula" by the Peer None Players at The Little Theatre, **New London**; For more information, email louise-mack@luckymail.com

June 12-14 Windsurfing & Unvarnished Music Festival. Worthington; The art fair runs Friday, June 12 and Saturday June 13; Booth space is available for artists. Call 507-272-2919 for more information.

June 13 Kandi Is Dandy Days Business Supper & Free Concert, tent west of Kandiyohi Civic Center, 432 North Atlantic Ave, **Kandiyohi**; the free concert features Phenomenal Harmonica Player Clint Hoover and 12-string guitar Master "Papa" John Kolstad; they will play Old Time Blues, Rags and Jug Band Music; supper begins at 5:00 PM; for more information, Email ellaelizabeth@hotmail.com

June 19 Grantseeking for Beginners Seminar at the Life Center Auditorium, MinnWest Techology Campus, **Willmar**; Learn more at www.mcf.org/seminars

June 19-20 & 26-27, The Odd Couple (Female Version) by the Calumet Players at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center, **Pipestone**; start at 7:30PM, June 21 & 28, shows start at 2:00PM

June 26 @ 7:00PM & June @ 2:00PM, Jack and the Giant, Children's Theatre, Marshall Middle School, **Marshall**

June 27 Memorial Auditorium, 601 9th Street Dawson, "Route 66" Musical Revue, 7:30 PM, Reserved seating tickets, adults \$12- students \$6. On sale to the public June 16. For information, contact dbaa@dawsonboydarts.org

Minnesota Presenters Network 2009 Summer Conference June 10 & 11, 2009

This year it is being held at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University. Download the brochure on the SMAHC website: www.smahc.org/presenters.htm

Opportunities

Midwest Arts Conference is coming to St. Paul September 9 - 12, 2009. Plan now to attend. For more information, visit www.artsmidwest.org. Click on the Programs link.

Grantseeking for Beginners Seminar will be held on Friday, June 19, 2009 at the Life Center Auditorium, MinnWest Technology Campus, **Willmar**; Learn more at www.mcf.org/seminars

OPEN CALL for Visual Artists: Springboard for the Arts seeks five visual artists to display and sell artwork at our first-ever group art show at the second annual "Osgood Do-Good" fundraising event. **Artwork sales will be split 50/50 between the artist and Springboard for the Arts.** The show will feature a range of artistic disciplines including, but not limited to, drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, pottery and glass. The "Osgood Do-Good" will take place on the evening of Friday, June 26 at the McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota. In addition to the group visual art exhibition, the event will feature five performances. Food and wine will be served. Download the guidelines and application on <http://www.springboardforthearts.org/publications/SpringboardOpenCall.pdf>. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009. Questions? Please email proposals@springboardforthearts.org

Call For Artists & Vendors for the 3rd Annual Glacial Ridge Winery Grape Stomp at the Glacial Ridge Winery 15455 Old Mill Road, **Spicer**; This day long event features live music, art & craft vendors, food vendors, wine tastings, tours, cooking demos, kids activities, grape stomp contests and more. September 12, 2009 All Day; Vendor Booth fee is \$25. Event is free to the public; For more information, call 320-796-9463 or email lisa@glacialridgewinery.com; Website: www.glacialridgewinery.com

Horizontal Grandeur Fine Art Exhibition Call to Artists Stevens County Historical Society & Museum, 116 W 6th Street, **Morris**; Submission Deadline May 8th, 2009; Exhibition, July 10th - October 30th, 2009; \$5 Jury fee; Telephone: 320-589-1719; Email: grandeur@stevenshistorymuseum.com; For more information, visit the website: www.stevenshistorymuseum.com/grandeur/form.php

Arts Education News from the Perpich Center - here's a great blog of arts education news from around the state. There are lots of great happenings and events to take advantage of here. Visit the blog at <http://artseducation.typepad.com:80/>

Bush Artist Fellowships Program: Applications are now available for Bush Artist Fellowships for 2010. For more information on the fellowships, visit www.bushfoundation.org.

Calling all artists and volunteers! In all its forms, art is a universal language that transcends any limitations of language, culture, age and gender. This cultural diversity project of "Mi casa es su casa" (my house is your house) is the Spanish phrase denoting unconditional welcome and hospitality. This art project will work with this welcoming expression to expand cultural awareness and understanding. Supported by the Intercultural Communities Uniting (ICU), the creation of several large (4' x 8') indoor transportable murals portraying the traditions, people and culture of SW MN will be the focus. The murals will be made using acrylic paints on fabric banners. In addition to artists, many volunteers will be needed to help in various ways. Art submissions reflecting eight to ten cultures will be considered. For more information about this project, call Cathy Peterson, Education/Events Director, BARC, **Windom** at 831-2375.

The Milan Village Arts School offers many classes throughout the year in a wide variety of fine arts and folk arts. You can view the classes that are available on their website and you can also register for classes and pay the tuition costs on-line. Visit milanvillageartsschool.org/

The American Composers Forum has a large database of on-line opportunities on their website. Visit www.composersforum.org/opportunities.cfm to view these opportunities.

The Minnesota State Arts Board maintains a database for visual artists who want to locate new venues in which to exhibit and sell their work, and for art patrons and collectors who are interested in viewing or purchasing art in Minnesota. The database is available at www.mnarts.us/exhibit.cfm.

MNartists.org is an online database of Minnesota artists and organizations from all disciplines. It offers to Minnesota-based artists a central gathering place on the Web, and will grow to become a marketplace and community hub. It offers the public a new way to explore art and get to know artists. In addition to providing artists and organizations with a web page containing images and information, mnartists.org provides news and features about the local arts scene from a variety of sources and a calendar of arts events in Minnesota. Visit their website and read more at: mnartists.org.

The Minnesota State Arts Board - A Basic Guide to Grants for MN Artists, Performance and Rehearsal Spaces, and Gallery and Exhibition Spaces in Minnesota. <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/guides>.

See the latest Calendar items and Opportunities on the SMAHC Website: www.smahc.org



ARTISTS AND ART EVENTS

MOSAIC MADNESS AT GSL

The **Panther Mosaic Mural** will be unveiled at a celebratory Art Show on Friday, April 24th, 2009. The mosaic is the result of a residency at the **Glencoe Silver Lake High School** with artist **Christine Carlisle**. The project was funded in part through a SMAHC Art Project Grant. You can read more about this art project on the SMAHC Web-site: www.smahc.org/mosaic.htm

Poetry Out Loud

The MN State Arts Board announced that the student finalists for the **Southwest Minnesota Regional Poetry Out Loud Competition** were **Alexandra Cross of Round Lake High School**, and **Kristina Phoumy of Adrian High School**. They each proceeded onto participate in the State POL Competition on March 9th in St. Paul. Kristina placed as 1 of the top 6 at the State level.

Marshall Writer Wins Award

Susan McLean, a professor in the English Department at SMSU, has just learned that she has won the **Richard Wilbur Award** from the University of Evansville Press. The prize is \$1,000 and publication of a full-length collection of

her poetry in hardback next winter. She had used a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council to enter this publication contest, along with eight others. The Richard Wilbur Award is given biennially.

Elizabeth Blair wins Blacklock Nature Photography Fellowship

SMSU English Professor Dr. Elizabeth Blair has won the prestigious 2009 Nadine Blacklock Nature Photography Fellowship. The award includes a one-month residency at the 500-acre Blacklock Nature Sanctuary near Moose Lake, Minn. Blair majored in art and English as an undergraduate and for the past several years has been photographing Minnesota wild orchids. This past fall she audited Jim Swartz's digital art photography course at SMSU to learn more about photographic composition. She will have a photography exhibit during SMSU's Fine Arts Festival this spring. Blair is a former SMAHC grant recipient.

FINALIST FOR BUSH ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Litchfield author Joe Paddock has been named one of 39 finalists for a Bush Artist Fellowship. Paddock, a Litchfield High School graduate, is a poet and environmental writer. He has taught creative writing at the University of Minnesota, been a community and regional poet, and served as a poet-in-residence for the Minnesota Public Radio station in Worthington. He also has written or collaborated on about 30 books.

REPORT: Arts Funding for the Next Biennium

Here is a report from the Minnesota Citizens for the Arts on the latest out of the Capital on the funding for the arts for 2010 - 2011.

Your voices are being heard! Today our Senate committee, nearly matching the House committee, also recommended drastically reducing cuts to the **Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils** from 50% to 10%. (The House committee last week recommended reducing the cut to 7.8%). Thank you to **Senators Cohen and Tomassoni** for helping the arts.

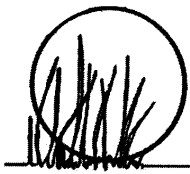
We expect, therefore, that after the bills pass the Senate and House floors and the differences are worked out in Conference Committee, that the final outcome for regular arts funding could very well fall somewhere between these two numbers. Funding for the arts has been just over \$10M per year for the past two years. This Senate recommendation would bring it down to around \$9.3M per year. There is still the danger that the state's budget will take another downwards lurch, or other unforeseen events may affect the state's budget. As they say, it's not over until it's over. But we should all be VERY happy with how your calls and letters have improved the outlook for the arts so far!

Still to come: decisions on how the state will spend the revenue from the **Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment**, of which 19.75% must be spent on "arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve our history and cultural heritage."

Where does SMAHC stand?

SMAHC realizes that there will need to be some cuts in funding over the next biennium. How much in cuts we will have to absorb won't be known for one or two months. We will be taking some measures to insure that we will remain financially sound and be able to put as much of our funds in the various granting programs as possible.

Depending on the how deep the cuts are, we may be cutting **Voices** down to 4 issues per year. So **Voices** may be published quarterly (or every 3 months) instead of the current bi-monthly. If this is the case, we would ask that you send SMAHC your announcements for the calendar and opportunity pages well enough in advance so that they can be printed in **Voices** in a timely manner. We will continue to update our Calendar and Opportunity pages on the SMAHC web site as they are sent to us. And as funding is restored, we would hope to continue publishing **Voices** six times a year.



SW MN Arts & Humanities Council
 1210 E. College Drive, Suite 600
 Marshall, MN 56258
 Phone 507-537-1471 or 800-622-5284 toll free
 www.smahc.org smahcinfo@iw.net

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