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Contact
Allison Sheridan
Communication Coordinator
University Museums
515-294-3342

Ever Changing Land
The Art of Ellen Wagener

Ames, IA – The exhibition Ever Changing Land: The Art of Ellen Wagener is now open at Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg. On Friday, February 6, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm meet the artist and view the newly installed exhibition. Wagener’s pastels perfectly capture the beauty of Iowa’s rural landscape, in both moments of peace and natural catastrophe. This free exhibition will run through July 31, 2015.

About the Exhibition
The Iowa landscape has been a constant source of inspiration for the artist Ellen Wagener. Those unbroken vistas of rural fields and farmlands native to Iowa have been her muse throughout her career and she has won accolades for the accuracy of beauty and her depictions.

“Landscape painting is a method that expresses my inner response to and reverent feelings for nature.” – Ellen Wagener

Wagener’s landscapes display a great reverence for nature and a passion for the rural lifestyle that is quickly disappearing throughout many of the Midwestern states. She appreciates the life that is made by the land and the hard work that is needed to endure and has that same passion and work ethic in her own artistic production. Her scenes encompass all that is stunning about the Iowa landscape, from the subtle colorations of the field, to the immense sky with its ever changing cloud formations. While life has taken her beyond Iowa, she always returns home in her art.

About the Artist
A native Iowan, Ellen Wagener was born in Maquoketa and raised in DeWitt, Iowa. She attended Marycrest University as well as the University of Iowa. In 1989 she attended BFA, Corcoran School of Art in Washington DC for honors. Today Wagener is nationally recognized artist. Wagener’s work was first exhibited by the Brunnier Art Museum when she was just a teenager through a community exhibition with 4-H.
“The 30” x 40” pastel was a winter "interpretation" of a Currier and Ives card. I won a big prize at the state fair and the show was the winners of the fair. I saw my future in this show at the Brunnier Art Museum” – Ellen Wagener

Her first forays into the art were achieved through Iowa State University’s enduring support of the community and would set her on the path to becoming an outstanding artist. As the Brunnier Art Museum has grown into a significant art institution and Wagener has become a nationally recognized artist, the partnership has continued to grow. Wagener is a remarkable Iowa artist whose belief in the beauty of the land is translated onto her canvasses. Her art is familiar while also exceptionally beautiful and created with extreme skill.

Opening Reception
Please join us Friday, February 6 at 5:30 pm to meet the artist and tour the exhibition in Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free and no RSVP is required.

The art in the exhibition is on loan courtesy of the artist and is curated and organized by University Museums as part of its 40th Anniversary with support from the Department of Agronomy, Martha Allen, Wesley F. Buchele, the estate of Shirley Held, Al and Ann Jennings, Alan and Myrna Tubbs, Jan and Cornelia Flora, Ronald and Florine Swanson, Dr. Richard and Karen Ross, H. Dieter and Renate Dellman, Olson-Larsen Galleries, and the University Museums membership.

Additional Programs
Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 pm, Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman
Aesthetics of Atmosphere – Weather in Art
Weather and the ever changing sky play significant roles in the rural life of many Iowans and Midwesterners. Ellen Wagener faithfully depicts both the chaos and serenity found in our skies as artists have long been inspired by the natural beauty that can be found in the atmospheres above. Dr. William Gallus, Professor of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences, will discuss the many variations that can be found in our skies and how they have inspired creativity in art, in relation to the art of Ellen Wagener.

Sunday, April 26, 2:00 pm, Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman
Imagining the Prairie, Then and Now
Walt Whitman called the prairie “America’s characteristic landscape.” Since Whitman’s day the actual prairie ecosystem has suffered greatly from shortsighted exploitation. Nevertheless, this landscape has left an indelible mark upon the nation’s larger cultural identity, a mark that remains with us to this day. Exploring the origins of this imagined prairie in a selection of key works of early American literature, Professor Matthew Sivils will discuss how the prairie landscape functioned as a challenge to European-American conceptions of the land, while it at the same time became a defining emblem of the American experience. Sivils is the 2015 CEAH Fellow in the Arts and Humanities. This program will be held in the Brunnier Art Museum’s current exhibition of landscapes by Iowa artist Ellen Wagener, and will be followed by a tour of Wagener’s artwork led by University Museums assistant curator Adrienne Gennett.

Admission and Hours
The Brunnier Art Museum is located on the second floor of the Scheman Building. Admission is free, however there is a suggested donation of $3 per visitor. The Brunnier Art Museum’s regular hours are as follows: Tuesday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The Brunnier Art Museum is closed on Mondays and University holidays. Parking available north and south of the Scheman Bldg. in the Iowa State Center lots.
Media Information
To schedule interviews and/or to photograph events, please contact Allison Sheridan (515-294-3342 aclone@iastate.edu) or exhibition curator Adrienne Gennett (515-294-3342 agennett@iastate.edu). Images available upon request.

For more information on University Museums, call 515-294-9500 or visit our web site at www.museums.iastate.edu.

Additional images available upon request.

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