

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**University Museums**

Anderson Sculpture Garden • Art on Campus Program • Brunnier Art Museum  
Christian Petersen Art Museum • Farm House Museum

**NEWS RELEASE  
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290 Scheman Building, Ames, Iowa 50011

<http://www.museums.iastate.edu/PressReleases.html>

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***Creative by Nature: The Bohan Collection of Inuit Art***

**Exhibition Opens Jan. 17th at the Brunnier Art Museum, Iowa State University**

**Ames, IA** –Iowa State University’s University Museums is pleased to announce the exhibition *Creative by Nature* featuring the Bohan collection of Inuit art opening on January 17<sup>th</sup> and running through the spring and summer months at the Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg., Ames, IA. Admission is free. Several programs and a reception (listed below) will be presented in conjunction with this exhibition.

***Creative by Nature:  
The Bohan Collection of Inuit Art***

January 17, 2017 – July 30, 2017

John L. and Ethel Margaret Gillmor Bohan (B.S. Iowa State University 1938) were thoughtful and engaged collectors. Their interest and passion for the art of the Inuit people of South Baffin Island in Arctic Canada is evident in the knowledge and love of this art that was passed along to their children, who generously donated their parent’s collection to University Museums.

“As the daughter of the collectors, John L. and Ethel Margaret Gillmor Bohan, I grew up surrounded by a remarkable collection of Inuit art. Not only did the artwork form a significant part of my upbringing, but their presence throughout the family home deepened my understanding of art and bolstered my decision to become an art historian.” –Ruth Bohan, guest curator and daughter of John and Ethel Bohan



Over the past forty years, University Museums has built a small holding of Native American fine and decorative arts. With the addition of the Bohan Collection of Inuit Art, that small collection has now almost tripled allowing University Museums the opportunity to address an area of art and culture that has been lacking institutionally.

The exhibition *Creative by Nature* will let visitors gain an understanding of a life and culture that may seem separate from our lives as lowans, but the reverence for nature and their existence from the land will be

recognizable. The spiritual connection to the animals and land which provided for their subsistence is a familiar connection, one that many lowans feel for the land that has provided them with their own livelihoods. While the skills of the artists in carving, printmaking, and drawing will be obvious and praised, it is this deeper understanding of how our modern culture can recognize our own beliefs and histories in the art of a very different culture that will most benefit visitors to the exhibition.

“The carvings in the collection were created by about fifty different artists, a figure indicative of the large number of carvers active in Cape Dorset and surrounding communities. The small sculptures recall a past closely connected with the land and the sea. At the same time they speak to a desire to preserve traditional Inuit culture.”  
–Ruth Bohan, guest curator and daughter of John and Ethel Bohan

“The artwork of the graphic artists in the collection represent a range of the styles and artistic expressions supported by the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative from the mid-1960s through the late 1990s. The majority of the artists are female, reflecting the exceptionally large number of female graphic artists active in Cape Dorset.” –Ruth Bohan, guest curator and daughter of John and Ethel Bohan

The expansion of the collection of Native American works of art will allow University Museums to better serve the campus and community by allowing the opportunity to experience unique cultural points of view through art. This exhibition is in homage to the Bohan’s and the hope is to inspire visitors to seek out the beauty and spirituality found in the diverse cultures of this world.



*This exhibition is curated and organized by University Museums with support from Ann Campbell, Clifford Smith, Dorian Stripling and Kathy Svec, and the University Museums Membership.*

## Related Upcoming Programs and Events

Friday, January 20, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg., 1805 Center Dr.

### **BAM Happy Hour**

Unwind after the start of the semester and take in the new exhibitions in the Brunnier Art Museum while enjoying happy hour drinks and conversation. Cash bar.

Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 pm, Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg., 1805 Center Dr.

### **Eskimo Artist: Kenojuak, Film Screening and Discussion**

Kenojuak Ashevak became the first woman involved with the printmaking co-operative in Cape Dorset, Canada. In this documentary by John Feeney, nominated for the 1963 Documentary Short Subject Oscar®, Ashevak’s drawings are transferred to stone, printed and sold. This 20 minute film will be followed by a discussion with Director of American Indian Studies Sebastian Braun, Art and Visual Culture Printmaking Professor April Katz, and University Museums Assistant Curator Adrienne Gennett. Source: National Film Board of Canada

Saturday, April 22, from 1:00 to 3:00pm, Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman Bldg., 1805 Center Dr.

### **Exhibition Reception – Creative by Nature: The Bohan Collection of Inuit Art**

A recent donation by John and Ethel Bohan has significantly expanded the collection of Native American works of art in the University Museums permanent collection and thus creates an opportunity for the campus community to experience unique cultural points of view through art. The hope of this exhibition, beautifully curated by Ruth Bohan, daughter of John and Ethel and an accomplished art historian, is to inspire visitors to seek out the beauty and spirituality found in the diverse cultures of this world. Brief comments at 1:30 by Ruth Bohan and Assistant Curator Adrienne Gennett. Light refreshments.

## Admission and Hours

The **Brunnier Art Museum** is located on the second floor of the Scheman Building, 1805 Center Dr. 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 exhibitions or events, please contact Allison Sheridan (515-294-3342 [acclone@iastate.edu](mailto:acclone@iastate.edu)) or Adrienne Gennett (515-294-3342, [agennett@iastate.edu](mailto:agennett@iastate.edu)).

*For more information on University Museums, call 515-294-9500 or  
visit our new web site at [www.museums.iastate.edu](http://www.museums.iastate.edu).*

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