



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Museum and
Art Gallery

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MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ARTIST OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2020

The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery is pleased to announce Ann Zook Martin of Doniphan, Nebraska, will be Artist of the Month for August 2020. Her work will be on display at the museum from August 5 to August 30 with many available for purchase. A reception will take place at the museum on August 6, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 to honor her.

A native of Cozad, Ann has become known for her paintings of Nebraska's skies, landscapes, and living creatures. She has also donated several paintings to the Robert Henri Museum to assist in telling the story of the Cozad family and the hotel they built on the 100th Meridian. Her artist statement reads as follows:

Painting is my way of expressing my deep love of the endless horizons, ocean-sized skies, down-to-earth people, and beautiful flora and fauna of Nebraska. Each piece is created with the goal of capturing the magic of the moment depicted.

My love of creating art dates back to when I was just old enough to hold a pencil. As a young farm girl growing up in Cozad, I was fortunate to receive painting lessons from the exceptionally talented Cozad resident, Hilda Kohl. This led to becoming an art major at Hastings College where I explored a variety of mediums, but always gravitated back to oil painting.

Upon graduation, my father handed me a check for \$500 and basically told me I was on my own. Knowing I had to fend for myself, I put the paint brushes away and began a 40-plus year career in marketing and communications.

Being a mother and working full time left me with little time to paint. Knowing that I wanted to return to painting upon retirement, my husband and I built a studio close to our house, which we call the Ann Cave, and I've been creating oil paintings ever since.

I am thrilled to currently be creating a series of paintings to assist the Robert Henri Museum in telling its history. And I am particularly pleased that my first dedicated show will be held in my dear hometown at the historic and fascinating Robert Henri Museum.

Ann retired in late 2018 from being the president of IdeaBank Marketing, a Hastings-based marketing and communications firm she co-founded in 1982. In addition to painting, she currently serves as president of the board of directors for Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, and serves of the board of directors for Greater Grand Island Community Foundation and Hastings College. She is also on the University of Nebraska Medical Center Board of Counselors and the Lochland Country Club Realty Board. She and her husband, retired Hall County Judge Philip Martin, have two grown sons, Paul and Jim.

The Artist of the Month program, in its nineteenth year, has displayed the work of more than fifty artists at the museum. The program was established to encourage understanding and appreciation of the arts in central Nebraska and to promote the legacy of Robert Henri, one of America's greatest art instructors. He taught more than one thousand students over his long career including well-known artists such as Edward Hopper, Rockwell Kent, George Bellows, Marjorie Ryerson and Elizabeth Grandin.

Artists can apply to the museum for consideration for entry into the program by going to its web page and printing off the application and submitting it. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021 program.

The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery is a national treasure that is the result of the work of many volunteers, board members and professional staff who have toiled for more than thirty years. The site is now listed on the United States Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places and has more Henri paintings and sketches on display than any other museum or gallery. The museum complex is located at 218 East 8th Street in Cozad and is open from May 1 to September 30 on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 308-784-4154 or visit the museum's web page at www.roberthenrimuseum.org.

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Caption

*Contributed Photograph:
Take Off
Ann Martin*