



MEDIA
RELEASE

MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

For Immediate Release

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Museum and
Art Gallery

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The Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery is pleased to announce Sara Bellamy of Fraser, Colorado, will be the Artist in Residence for September 1-15 with many of the works available for purchase. A reception will take place at the museum on September 10, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 to honor her.

A native of the Cozad area, Sara has become known for her sophisticated folk art paintings. Her artist statement reads as follows:

I am Sara Bellamy – mountain girl from the farm, journalist and writer, sponge of culture and my environment, and curious maverick of living life. Really it is that good!

From an early age, my mother, Jane Bellamy promoted my individualism and creativity, which I'm sure, set me up to be here at this point in my life. Also, being the baby of the family, I was the only child at home when Willard Bellamy, my father, discovered his passion for art. I was witness to my parent's devotion for art and sharing it with their family, friends and even community. This Robert Henri Museum is a testament of my father's fondness of art and the art history of his home town, Cozad, Nebraska. The support and witness of my parent's early appreciation of art, along with a hell-of-an-education in art exploring museums with Ky Rohman and my mother, Jane, nurtured my art spirit.

My background of exploring art is what brings me here today. George Nubert, director of the Flatwater Folk Art Museum in Brownville, Nebraska, says my style is "sophisticated folk art." The only formal art training I received was in the 1970s, in Eustis, attending Eustis Public School. Thank you Mr. Ross and Mrs. Neuenburg. So, I come out as an emerging artist, letting my imagination flourish in color bringing you my Aspens and Animals.

Sara Bellamy's artist biography reads as follows:

In 2017, I was inspired to pick up a paint brush and to use sea glass I had collected from the ocean. What I found was inspiration comes from a muse, then a lot of research, and then a good deal of ponder before developing art. I really like the research and thoroughly enjoy pondering.

The Fraser Public Art Committee (PAC) began an outdoor mural program in my hometown of Fraser, Colorado in 2018. As a volunteer on several pieces in the community, with a few notably famous muralists, I was a good helper-painter. The bright colors were so much fun. I applied and was awarded my own mural on a chair from a recycled ski lift, and that is when I stood alone as an artist. It is the bus stop bench in front of the Train Depo in Fraser. This led to my own folkie and colorful murals on the backyard fence and then the backyard shed became an 8x8x10 foot 4-sided canvas. In 2019, the Fraser PAC held their first Fraser Mountain Mural Festival where for two days, 20 artists competed on 8X8 foot canvases. My piece "Selfies of '28" was awarded 3rd place.

Outdoor murals are a great way to spend the Colorado summers, but not the winter; I moved inside to paint whatever I could. And there is was again, folkie and colorful, very colorful. From our home, a log cabin on the Fraser River, I am surrounded by nature, the river and wetlands: my inspiration. As a writer, I always heard "Write what you know." And from that playbook, I am painting what I know. The animals and aspens are there in the backyard, and then there is the occasional fox, bear, moose, ermine, porcupine, and that's what we do see.

Waylan said he wanted a painting of a cow, so I told him I would paint one. That spring I enjoyed going out with my nephew Waylan Bellamy to check calves. And there was this one mother who had the prettiest calf that you could just tell would win all the 4-H awards if shown. I never could get a picture of that calf, but the look I got from the mother is the inspiration for many of my cows. The next year one of Waylan's mamas #912 became my subject. I had also gone to the Grand County Fair to watch my god-daughter show her chickens. Great pictures of the fur and fowl in the 4-H barn was inspiration for the farm yard animal paintings- bunnies, turkeys, roosters, chickens, pigs and cows.

The museum's artist programs are being sponsored in 2020 by Black Hills Energy and the membership of the museum. The Artist-in-Residence program, now in its sixth year, 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 October 31 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 or its Facebook page.

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Caption

*Contributed Photograph:
Fraser Mural Festival 2019
Sara Bellamy*