



MEDIA
RELEASE

MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ARTIST OF THE MONTH
FOR OCTOBER 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 Trey Botts of Cozad, Nebraska, will be Artist of the Month for October 2020. His work will be on display at the museum from October 1 to October 31 with many available for purchase. A reception will take place at the museum on October 7, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 to honor him and his work.

A resident of Cozad, Trey writes:

*I grew up in Southwest Kansas, in a little town called Holcomb, more infamous for what was described in Truman Capote's book **In Cold Blood**, than its artistic exploits. The school system there was fantastic however, and I had a wonderful art teacher, Archie Oliver, who is also an author. He really developed my skills, and motivated me to follow my passion for art. I went on to win multiple scholastic gold keys and was a representative of Kansas in the National Art Show in New York in 2002. I for some reason thought I needed to accept a football scholarship instead of the multiple art ones I was offered. I guess I needed to get it out of my system. Eventually, I needed a change of scenery and I ended up accepting one of those art scholarships, and traded in pads and cleats, for canvas and brushes.*

I attended Garden City community college, and served as the President of the Art Club, a job I reluctantly took, but actually enjoyed. I flourished as a painter under the instruction of David Kinder, and to my surprise, actually started selling work while I was still taking classes. From there, I transferred to the University of Nebraska-Kearney to finish my Bachelor's degree in Art Education. Following graduation, I accepted a teaching position in Garden City, Kansas and taught art there for four years before moving to Nebraska. I have been active teaching art, painting, and dabbling in some graphic design work since 2009. I also coach football and track at the local high school, guess I still have a soft spot for sports.

My wife Jessica and I have one son with another little boy on the way this month. We have lived in Cozad since the spring of 2014 and love it here. In addition to my duties as a teacher, coach, husband, and father, I have been helping my in-laws on their farm and ranch for the last 12 years, full-time when school is not in session. I have been blessed beyond measure to be as busy as I am and am very appreciative of my family's support.

His artist statement reads as follows:

The collection that you are viewing is in many ways a retrospective of my work. When you look at these pieces, frequently you will see texture, and bold brush strokes. This is done with the intention of bringing focus to areas of the painting that I find interesting. Loosely painted secondary features using large and small marks are also a common theme across my subject matter. In the non-objective pieces you can see the heavy intentional textures that are modeled into them with paste or plaster. With some close observation, you will find imprints of coins, hairbrushes, mason jars, and other everyday items.

This show is a collection of work from the past 6 years. You are looking at abstractions, non-objective works, landscapes, and portraiture. I feel like I have developed a comfort level exploring multiple modes of expression, and therefore, you will see a wide scope of styles in this display. In working non-objectively, I have the opportunity to fully explore whatever art elements I choose to create a visually stimulating work of art. This requires me to fully understand the elements and principles of art, because that is basically all I have to work with. The majority of my career I have worked in this manner because I feel it is the most creative way to work, it is very open ended. When I dive into the world of abstraction, I have a subject or a theme that I can follow, and deviate from that point. I enjoy figuring out what information I want to present to the viewer and what information is not necessary. This is a nice bridge between non objective works and something that is more representational. The landscapes and portraits are readily available subject matter that give me a chance to hone my skills and play with technique. I believe in being well rounded, and so with all of these styles and subject matter I never lack for challenges. Enjoyment, Expression, and growth all flow from the challenge that is presented in each of my works.

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:

Trey Botts