



SIGN POSTS

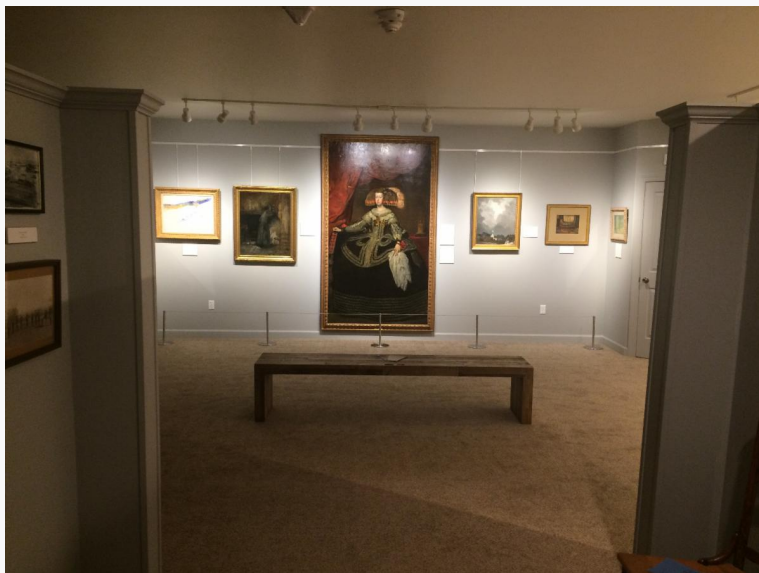
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The Official Online Newsletter of the Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery



MUSEUM TO HOST HOLIDAY AT THE HENRI

We are pleased to announce that the museum will be hosting its annual *Holiday at the Henri* on December 6 and 7, 2019. The gala event will include an open house, special Christmas decorations, the unveiling of a new exhibit in the Art Gallery, a special award presentation, refreshments, and a tour of beautifully decorated houses in the Cozad area.



From 5:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, the museum will be hosting an open house which will include rooms decorated in the Christmas spirit by museum volunteers along with guided tours. Refreshments will be served including hors d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee, and beverages. A special program in the Art Gallery will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting to open a major

new exhibit entitled *Through My Own Language: Robert Henri and His Portraits, Paintings and Sketches*.

The newly installed exhibit, will include all of the museum's paintings, portraits and most of the sketches that it owns including recent acquisitions and those loaned by our patrons. The show will include interpretive components on Henri's life and his students, and feature the most current knowledge about the artist. Major funding for the project has been provided by the Katherine Wilson Foundation, the Burkholder Foundation, the Kosman Foundation, and the Union Pacific Foundation.

In addition, there will be a special award presentation made by the *History Nebraska* Board of Trustees to recognize volunteers of cultural organizations including two of whom are from Cozad and museum members. Forty-three awards are being made across the state. Tammy and Larry Paulsen will be presented with the *Heritage Hero* award and are especially deserving since they have had a major role in loaning and giving us a number of Henri paintings and sketches and those of his students.

On Saturday, December 7, the museum will continue its open house with refreshments from 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. The Robert Henri Museum will also be sponsoring its annual Christmas House Tour on the same day. Three property owners have generously agreed to open their homes to show their Christmas displays. They include Jordan and Ashley Kinnan, Justin and Sheena Kinnan, and Andy and Pam Lahr. The homes will be open for tours from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. House tour tickets can be purchased for \$8 per person at Sonny's, The Daily Scoop, Service Drug, Rustic and Red, the Cozad Chamber of Commerce and at the museum.

The museum will also be hosting the work of two artists on both days including Rose Mapel and Randall May. Mapel is a self-taught artist, works in a variety of mediums and is also a photographer and writer. She and her husband Ray own Rustic Milling & Craft LLC in Cozad, Nebraska. One of her specialties is the creation of barn quilts and she teaches non-credit barn quilt workshops and other creative classes at colleges around the region. She was selected as a Featured Artist for Nebraska Rural Living and has been the Artist of the Month at the Robert Henri Museum. Mapel painted the *50 States Barn Quilt* tourist attraction that hangs on the Mead Lumber storage building in Cozad. In 2019, she wrote the book *The Complete Barn Quilt Creation & Painting Guide* which will be available for purchase and autographing at the *Holiday at the Henri* program.

Randall May studied at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado. He won awards and scholarships while under the tutelage of John Seerey-Lester and traveled to workshops with the renowned artist in Alaska, Colorado and Florida. Randall's paintings and sculptures range from small to monumental in size and are collected nationally and internationally. He has sculptures and paintings in the permanent collections of The Museum Of Nebraska Arts in Kearney, Nebraska and The Pinkerton Retirement Specialist and Museum in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Randall has placed monumental sculptures, both public and privately in Colorado towns; Vail, Superior, Woodland Park,

Pagosa Springs, Divide and Colorado Springs. He will have his work on display and for sale.

For more information about the programs please call the museum at 308-784-4154.

Photographs: Peter Osborne and contributed by the artists



FEATURED ARTISTS AT OPEN HOUSE

Rose Mapel



Randall May



THE GAMBLER'S SON OPERA GREAT SUCCESS

The world premiere of *The Gambler's Son* was a huge success both here in Cozad and in Lincoln. The UNL Opera in the Glenn Korff School of Music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln performed to more

than 350 people in the Cozad High School as visitors came from all over the state to see the performance. Many of those visitors came to see the museum and gallery. *The Gambler's Son* is adapted from Mari Sandoz's 1960 novel, *Son of the Gambler's Man*, which tells the story of

the founding of Cozad, Nebraska, of its larger-than-life founder, John J. Cozad, and of Cozad's son, the illustrious American painter, Robert Henri.

After its performance in Cozad the opera was performed twice in Lincoln, also to large audiences. The work was created with the generous support of Jane Rohman, the Family of Willard Bellamy, the Family of Ivan and Shirley Paulsen, the Lincoln Community Foundation, the UNL Friends of Opera, and the Wilson Foundation. The production tour to Cozad was made possible by a generous gift from the James C. and Rhonda Seacrest Tour Nebraska Opera Fund.

*Photograph: Robert Henri painting his father Richard Lee (the former John Cozad)
Glenn Korff School of Music, Technical Communication Faculty,
College of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Nebraska–Lincoln*

HISTORY AT OUR DOORSTEP

History is constantly being revised, rediscovered and rewritten. Sometimes it is because new information has been found, sometimes it is because new interpretations have been made or a new generation of researchers look at events differently. This is the case with our local history, or the history that is at our doorstep.

We recently visited the Cozad Cemetery which is located to the east of the city. It is beautifully situated and many of the community's founding and leading families are buried there including names that are familiar to anyone who has read Mari Sandoz's book, *Son of A Gamblin'g Man*. The Claypools, Gatewoods and Schooleys were all laid to rest in this lovely setting. They were also the families that played important roles in the lives of the the John J. Cozad family.



It is worth remembering that there are no Cozads buried here because of course once they left the community they changed their names and identities. In fact, they are buried far from the Platte River Valley and in the Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, Rhode Island. John J. Cozad (Richard Lee), Theresa Cozad (Tess Lee), John A. Cozad (Frank Southrn) and Robert Henry Cozad (Robert Henri) were all buried there. Frank Southrn, his wife Jenny and their daughter Jane all died in Philadelphia but then taken to Rhode Island. Robert Henri and Marjorie Organ Henri both died in New York within a year of each other and in 1930 Henri was cremated

and buried in Providence. Paperwork in the museum's archives states that there were no markers for either the Lees or Robert Henri, or at least there was not at the time that the notes were made at an unknown date. *(If you are ever in Providence, Rhode Island the entire family is buried in Lot 355 in the Swan Point Cemetery which is off Cyprus Avenue. There is a large monument with the name Southrn on it. We would love to have a picture of Robert Henri's final resting place for our archives along with his family members.)*

One of the monuments in the Cozad Cemetery is an interesting one because it memorializes Mary Claypool who died in September 1873. Had she lived just a few months longer she would have been among the first group of settlers brought to Nebraska by John Cozad. Mary Claypool's son, H. E. Claypool, also died at the same time, perhaps in childbirth. A monument for Mary (pictured here) is located in the northwestern corner of the Cozad Cemetery, although they may not be buried there. If she was brought sometime later, she would be among the earliest burials if not the first. David Claypool (1840-1923), her husband, and a local businessman died in 1923. Further research needs to be done to see if he remarried because the monument for him is located in a different section of the cemetery and there are no other names listed on it.

Walking through the Cozad Cemetery is like a who's who of Cozad's history and is worth a visit. A large panel at the entrance has an inventory of who is buried there and where to find them.

Photograph: Peter Osborne



UPCOMING EVENTS

As we look to 2020 we are seeking candidates for our Artists of the Month and an Artist in Residence. If you know of anyone who might be interested please feel free to contact us. Our 2019 program was very successful and we were pleased with the results and hope to build on its success.

We have a busy year planned as we move along on an ambitious list of projects that our director and board have put together.



COLLECTION NEWS

As we begin to organize our collection into an archive that will serve the researching public and for our own projects we are making many discoveries, or perhaps better said, rediscoveries.

We have found old photographs, letters, documents related to the family and research that has been done on Henri, and in particular, about his Nebraska legacy over the years. Recently we came across a photograph of the Cozad's former home in Cozaddale, Ohio. This was the town that John Cozad founded a short time before he came to Nebraska but was not a successful venture. This



part of the family's history needs to be further researched and connections made with the historical researchers in Hamilton Township in Warren County. Surely there must be fascinating materials to be found there.

In looking at the picture one can see similarities between the building in Ohio and our museum. If one eliminated the tower, the appearance of both buildings are very much alike. Built of brick with symmetrical window openings it is a typical vernacular residential building of the Victorian era, just as the museum is. We hope to report more on the house and the community in the future as we delve deeper into the file cabinets and boxes.

Photograph: Courtesy of the Robert Henri Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Museum Hours From October 1, 2019 - May 1, 2020

By Appointment Only

Holiday at the Henri

December 6 and 7, 2019 - Holiday at the Henri

Opening of new gallery exhibit on Robert Henri, Booksigning by member Rose Mapel, Art Display by Randall May

May 1, 2020 - Reopening of the Museum and Art Gallery for Regular Hours



WHAT WOULD ROBERT HENRI SAY?

We are not here to do what has already been done.

The Art Spirit

Robert Henri

(Photograph: Courtesy Library of Congress)

Our newsletter's name, *Sign Posts*, comes from a phrase at the beginning of Robert Henri's *Art Spirit*. He wrote:

There are moments in our lives, there are moments in a day, when we seem to see beyond the usual. Such are the moments of our greatest happiness. Such are the moments of our greatest wisdom. If one could but recall his vision by some sort of sign. It was in this hope that the arts were invented. Sign-posts on the way to what may be. Sign-posts toward greater knowledge.



Visiting the
Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery
Open: May 1 – September 30
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Admission
\$5 for Adults
\$2 for Children (5-18)
We accept all major credit cards
Closed on the major holidays
Phone: (308) 784-4154
Email: rhenri@cozadtel.net
Web page: www.roberthenrimuseum.org.