



Lorraine Ortner-Blake, *Hiding in the Corn*, 2019, courtesy of the artist



Roberta Condon, *American Pastoral 3 D*, 2020, courtesy of the artist



Katie Schutte, *Barn Doily*, 2023, courtesy of the artist



Henry Matthiessen III, *Veiled Beauty*, 2017, courtesy of the artist

Exhibitions Inspired by Rural Life Open at DuMA

Wisconsin artists prompt Dubuque Camera Club

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DUBUQUE, Iowa, October 10, 2023—Three exhibitions by regional artists will be celebrated with a Free Community Day on Saturday, October 28. As one of the major agricultural centers of the United States, Iowa has, in many ways, become synonymous with farm life, holding a place in the national imagination as the land of Grant Wood, endless fields, and both the joy and the heartbreak associated with working the land.

Long Time Passing: A Visual Chronicle of Farm Life in the Midwest, Past and Present

October 21, 2023–February 4, 2024

Long Time Passing is both a celebration of regional talent and an elegy for rural communities. In this joint exhibition, works by Roberta Condon and Lorraine Ortner-Blake evoke the stories, memories, shapes, and colors of Midwestern farm life. The title is drawn from the song “Where Have All the Flowers Gone” by Pete Seeger, which similarly evokes a sense of inexorable change and lamentation for what has been lost.

The Wisconsin-based artists use different visual languages in their respective twenty-six works to communicate the subtle and readily apparent shifts in farm life. Condon, a bus driver laid off during the pandemic, spent her days during that time walking the nearby trails carved by Ice Age glaciers. The farms and barns she encountered on those walks became the catalysts for her abstractions.

Ortner-Blake's paintings are rooted in her mother's and her own reminiscences of life on their family farm. Spurred in part by her mother's memory loss and inspired by the works of Marc Chagall, her domestic and farming scenes have an ethereal, floating quality in which nature and memory swirl together.

DuMA is the final stop of *Long Time Passing*, which has toured throughout the Midwest over the past three years. In Dubuque, the exhibition will be complemented by video profiles of local farmers representing a cross section of those who work the land around Dubuque: conventional and organic farmers, those new to farming and those whose families have farmed for generations. These videos bring the sentiments of *Long Time Passing* close to home, allowing visitors to better understand the lived contemporary experience of those around them.

Distorted Recollections: Paper, Paint and Fiber Works by Katie Schutte

October 28, 2023–February 11, 2024

Katie Schutte is a third Wisconsin-based artist with an exhibition opening this month at DuMA. She uses a wide variety of techniques to explore the vagaries of memory. For the fifteen works on view in the gallery, Schutte sprayed paint over and through antique, vintage, and artist-made crocheted doilies, then stitched and crocheted found fibers onto the substrate. In the process, the hand-made doilies—themselves a vestige of an earlier time—are reconfigured and remade. In her hands, the transformation of these doilies, which were acquired from friends, families, estate sales, and travels, reflects our own subconscious transformation of memories. “We forget, remember incorrectly, recall certain pieces clearer than others, and evolve the event as we remember and retell it,” Schutte says. “The inversion, distortion, and alteration of the doilies with paint and fiber illustrate how memories can be unreliable imprints that have been filtered and edited. The works in this series will never be actual doilies or even representations of one, just as our memories will never be the complete and entirely accurate version of events.”

Outside the Museum, Schutte installed two additional works: *Barn Doily* on the exterior of the building and *Recursive* on DuMA's grounds. *Barn Doily*, which mimics a barn quilt, offers a five foot version of her doily works. *Recursive* is a sculpture composed of a mile and a half of crocheted manila rope inspired by the structures of natural and biological systems.

Rural Life: Dubuque Camera Club Annual Exhibition

October 21, 2023–February 4, 2024

Sixty-five photographs, from over 120 submitted by Camera Club members, were selected for an exhibition that showcases a range of perspectives on rural life around the region. Some photos highlight the compositional rigor of fields of crops, others the melancholy tinge of harvest, still others portraits of the Midwesterners that call this area home. The Dubuque Camera Club is a local group open to photo enthusiasts of all skill levels. More information about the club may be found at dubuquecameraclub.com

Community Day

Saturday, October 28, 10 to 6 pm

Celebrate the bounty of fall, the power of community, and the opening of new exhibitions. The day includes family architecture workshops, artist and author conversations, and a block party. **Admission is FREE with donation of a non-perishable food item to the Dubuque Food Pantry.**

Community Day begins with a children’s architecture workshop with Az Rashidi and Paul Schulhof, the architects designing the new museum campus. Participants will share their ideas for the new Museum with Az and Paul and build their own models that describe their vision. At 1pm, join *Long Time Passing* artists Roberta Condon and Lorraine Ortner-Blake inside the Falb Family Gallery for a conversation with Beth Hoffman, author of *Bet the Farm*. The three women will discuss the changing rural landscape, the struggles and joys of life on the farm, and how their experiences inspire their art. At 3pm, artist Katie Schutte will discuss *Distorted Recollections* in the Kris Mozena McNamer Gallery. The afternoon culminates with a block party from 4-6pm on 7th Street that includes food trucks, a community workshop with Schulhof and Rashidi, live music by Joie Booth Wails, and autumnal décor from local farmers.

- 10 am Children’s Architecture Workshops & Pumpkin Decorating
- 1 pm Gallery conversation: Roberta Condon, Lorraine Ortner-Blake and author Beth Hoffman
- 2:30 pm Gallery talk with Katie Schutte
- 4–6 pm Block party and community workshop with DuMA’s architects, Paul Schulhof and Az Rashidi.
Live music and food trucks hosted with the Bluff Street Neighborhood Association, on 7th St.

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About the Dubuque Museum of Art

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa’s oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA’s mission is to create engaging art experiences that excite, inspire, and connect our community. The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. More information can be found at dbqart.org.

Contact: Gary Stoppelman
Executive Director
563-557-1851 x112
gstoppelman@dbqart.org