

North Dakota Museum of Art

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From Manitoba, to South Dakota, to Cuba The North Dakota Museum of Art to Open Three New Exhibitions

Grand Forks, North Dakota – The North Dakota Museum of Art will open three new exhibitions on Wednesday, June 5. There will be a public reception from 6 – 8 pm, with live music, refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres. Parking will be provided by the Museum. Art openings are free and open to the public.

In 2003, Robert Archambeau, of Winnipeg, was Manitoba's first ceramic artist to receive the prestigious Governor's General Award in Visual and Media Arts, Canada's highest artistic award given annually to six artists. In 2008, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA).

Archambeau was born in 1933 in Toledo, OH. He enlisted in the US Marines at the age of 17 and served four years before taking a factory job to earn money for college. He received his Bachelors of Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and his Masters of Fine Arts from New York State College of Ceramics in Alfred, NY. In 1968, he immigrated to Canada after teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design. Archambeau is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba, where he retired in 1991.

Over Time is a collection of wood fired ceramic vessels, tea pots, and containers, which Archambeau is known for internationally. He draws inspiration from the great ceramic artists of England, China, Korea, and Japan, but also from the woods and landscape surrounding his studio in Bisset, Manitoba, three hours north of Winnipeg. In addition to Archambeau's ceramic work, the North Dakota Museum of Art will feature his small paintings and drawings, images of his ceramic forms.

Visitors to the exhibitions will continue their journey from Manitoba through the Dakotas with Rebecca Norris Webb, a New York-based photographer. In 2005, Webb set out to photograph her home state, South Dakota, ". . . a sparsely populated frontier state on the Great Plains with more buffalo, pronghorn, coyotes, mule deer, ring-necked pheasants and prairie dogs than people. It's a landscape dominated by space and silence and solitude, by brutal wind and extreme weather. I was trying to capture a more intimate and personal view of the West. I was trying to capture what all that space feels like to someone who grew up there." A year later, Rebecca's brother who ranched in western South Dakota, died. The photographs and accompanying book became "An elegy for my brother who died unrepentantly."

The result of her photographic investigation is a series of photographs titled *My Dakota*. Norris Webb found her start as a poet before taking up the camera. *My Dakota* incorporates her poems drawn from her home landscapes.

Rebecca Norris-Webb photographed *Violet Isle* with her partner Alex Webb some years earlier. The husband/wife artists were teaching a workshop in Cuba in the late 1990s and decided to team up to capture the vibrant color and daily life of Cubans. In 2000, they returned to the island to focus on two seemingly different aspects of Cuban life. Alex drew his inspiration from the streets and people of Cuba, while Rebecca focused on a unique and mysterious collections of animals—from little zoos to pigeon societies.

The couple continues to conduct photography workshops around the globe. Last week they were in Australia, and on June 7, following their opening in the North Dakota Museum of Art, they will begin a three-day workshop at the Museum.

Alex Webb was born in San Francisco but grew up in New England. He began to take photographs while in high school. He studied history and literature at Harvard, while at the same time attending The Carpenter Center for Visual Arts in photography. In 1974, he became an Associate Member of Magum Photo. Webb's work has been exhibited around the world, including at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, New York's International Center of Photography, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, the New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, and most recently at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.