

North Dakota Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The North Dakota Museum of Art Announces Opening Exhibition for Kellyann Burns, Jim Dow and Brian Paulsen

The North Dakota Museum of Art announces the opening exhibition for Kellyann Burns, Jim Dow and Brian Paulsen on Thursday, August 9, 6 – 8 pm. Informal gallery talk by all three artists at 7 pm. The exhibitions for Kellyann Burns and Brian Paulsen will be on display through October 7, while the Jim Dow exhibit closes on September 16.

Kellyann Burns creates taut and luscious minimal paintings and drawings that trace their roots to earlier minimal and color field paintings, plus not so spare collages cut from the sandpaper she uses to pare away her paint surfaces. According to Museum Director Laurel Reuter, “This Brooklyn artist continues to feed my inner need to look at painting. Her most beautiful creations exist in a world that thinks it has lost its appetite for both painting and beauty.”

Brian Paulsen, long recognized as a major North Dakota artist, has been winning prizes across the country for decades. This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to see Brian’s insouciant, irrational, and serendipitous paintings on paper—all 13.25 x 9 inches—and even smaller drypoint engravings. As part of this celebration of Brian’s life in North Dakota, the North Dakota Museum of Art is publishing an accompanying book about his art made between 1990 and 2007.

Jim Dow has been coming to North Dakota since 1981. First, Dow photographed folk art within the environment: sculpture, murals, carvings, and then tourist traps, odd manifestations, surface appearances, and the stuff farmers made in their shops during long winter months. Gradually, his vision expanded to include vernacular architecture: people's places of business, classrooms, workshops, homes, backyards, and hunting lodges, as well as churches and cemeteries and prison yards. Twenty-five years and 300 photographs later, the project coalesces into this North Dakota portrait, a gentle assessment of a time, a land, and its people, and, just outside the picture frame, the weather that mandates endless change.

Marking the Land is a moving reflection by a leading American photographer on the state of the Northern Plains today, forcing us all to rethink our conceptions of America’s forgotten frontier.

MARKING THE LAND: JIM DOW IN NORTH DAKOTA

Photographs and narrative by Jim Dow
Edited with an essay by Laurel Reuter
220 pages, 186 color images, hardcover and paperback
Published by the North Dakota Museum of Art in collaboration with the
Center for American Places.

The historic frontier life portrayed in *My Ántonia* and *Little House on the Prairie* may be long gone, but the idyllic small town still exists as a cherished icon of American community life. The fading communities, social upheaval, and enduring heritage of the Northern Plains are the subject of Jim Dow’s *Marking the Land*, a stirring photographic tribute to the complex and unyielding landscape of North Dakota.

In celebration of the publication of *Marking the Land: Jim Dow in North Dakota*, the North Dakota Museum of Art will bring Jim Dow back to North Dakota for the unveiling of this book. Dow will make three appearances around the state in promotion of *Marking the Land*. The schedule is as follows:

August 8, 7:30 pm

Slide Presentation, Book Signing and Reception
Hotel Donaldson, Fargo

August 9, 6 pm

Book Signing and Reception
North Dakota Museum of Art

August 10, 3 pm

Slide Presentation, Book Signing and Reception
Bismarck Heritage Center

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive, Grand Forks. For more information call 701-777-495 or visit www.ndmoa.com. M-F 9-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 1-5 pm.