

North Dakota Museum of Art

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North Dakota Museum of Art Announces Opening Exhibition *From Prairie to Field: Photographs by Terry Evans*

The North Dakota Museum of Art announces the opening of Chicago-based photographer Terry Evans' exhibition, *From Prairie to Field: Photographs by Terry Evans*. The opening reception will be Sunday, September 23 from 3 – 5 pm. The reception is free and open to the public. This exhibition is sponsored in part by the Grand Forks *Herald*.

Nationally recognized artist, Evans has spent over twenty years photographing the prairie from her home base in Kansas. Considering herself an explorer, Evans has produced a variety of images capturing farmlands, wetland, meadows, and forests of America's heartland. When she moved to the urban setting of Chicago, she turned to The Field Museum's scientific collection of prairie specimens to continue her exploration and documentation of the prairies.

Evans has created a series of iris prints of birds, plants, fish, reptiles, mammals and insects from collections dating back over 150 years. The exhibition includes forty-two images from this series including *Coneflower* (1899) and two photographs titled *Trumpeter Swan* (1899 and 1916) from North Dakota.

Clearly preserved specimens, the subjects of her photographs carry a mournful tone as the viewers are introduced to past prairie life, a life that has changed vastly over the years. In a world where many people are deprived of prairie life, and especially prairie life dated over a hundred years ago, this show serves as an educational tool for learning about prairie specimen, like the possibly extinct ivory-billed woodpeckers and the single trumpeter swan, a bird that has only narrowly escaped extinction. This exhibition, a record of both natural and manmade beauty exhumed from the past, asks the viewers to think about why people and institutions collect specimens and what we hope to learn from them.

Accompanying some of the pieces are handwritten notes, identifying the subjects and recording dates and locations that the specimen were found. These written notes bring to light the early naturalists that started collecting these prairie specimen over 150 years ago. Although some of the specimens may have been robbed of a full life by these same naturalists, Terry Evans pays homage to these explorers and their efforts to advance the understanding of natural history.

The North Dakota Museum of Art is located on Centennial Drive, Grand Forks. Weekdays 9 – 5 pm. Weekends 1 – 5 pm. The Museum Shop is open during these hours as well. The Museum Café is open weekdays 10 – 4 pm with lunch served from 11 – 2 pm. Although the Museum does not charge an admission fee, the suggested donation is \$5 for adults and change for children.