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Unique PRCA exhibit: Hodgson '86 poetry paired with photographs and paintings

Summary: The exhibit pairs the written word with two-dimensional art by Deb Connolly, Della Conroy '72 and Richard Walker.

(August 2, 2010)-University of Minnesota, Morris graduate Linda Hodgson'86 will be featured in a unique exhibit at the The Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance (PRCA) Gallery. The exhibit pairs the written word, Hodgson's poetry, with two-dimensional art by PRCA artists Deb Connolly, Della Conroy '72 and Richard Walker. An opening reception for “Out My Window: Prairie Poems, Pictures, and Paintings” will be held on Thursday evening, August 5, 2010, from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

The seed for this exhibit was planted years ago when Hodgson realized that a still life, a bowl of peaches, painted by artist John Ingle, then Morris professor of studio art, serendipitously captured the essence of a poem she had written. She sent her poem to Ingle with a note sharing with him how she wished she could paint. Ingle responded by affirming Hodgson’s gift, stating that she, too, was creating art, a still life with words.

Like Ingle, many others encouraged Hodgson to write, from her fourth-grade teacher in Wheaton where she grew up to Dwight Purdy and the late Jim Gremmels, Morris English professors. Living on the prairie also inspires the poet.

“When I write, I find that place is very important,” reflects Hodgson. “I love the prairie. It is like the ocean, a vast surface and another world going on underneath. It’s beautiful. We need to surround ourselves with beauty and then share it. I love words, and I feel good about life. That’s what I try to capture and share.”

Hodgson identifies three kindred spirits in the wildlife photography of Walker and the paintings of Connolly and Conroy. The PRCA exhibit will feature her poetry with their paintings and photographs that reflect the content and theme of her poems. While she has written “volumes” over the years, Hodgson states this particular project has been developing as an intentional and cohesive undertaking for about the last year.

Hodgson, Conroy, Walker, and Connolly, along with Bob Christianson who framed nine of the pieces, will all be present at the opening reception, which is free and open to the public.

The PRCA exhibit of poetry, paintings, and photographs will be available for viewing until Saturday, September 11, 2010, at the PRCA Gallery located at 630 Atlantic Avenue, downtown Morris. Regular hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., or by appointment. For more information, call 320-585-5037 or e-mail.

The nonprofit PRCA’s mission is to advocate, promote, and coordinate arts, heritage, and cultural activities in Stevens County and the surrounding area.
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