



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NDCA announces North Dakota artist's works on exhibit at the Capitol

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), along with the offices of State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum, are exhibiting the works of NDCA's Folklorist, Troyd Geist, at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of July, August and September. Geist's work is on display in the Treasurer's third floor office, the Attorney General's first floor office, and the First Lady's fourth floor office.

Artists looking to represent their region with art work placed in the Capitol can submit a brief resume along with photographs of their work to the North Dakota Council on the Arts, 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503. Artists are selected for quarterly display.

Troyd Geist is the state folklorist with the North Dakota Council on the Arts. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Sociology/Anthropology from North Dakota State University. Troyd is charged with encouraging the preservation and continuation of folk and traditional arts, heritage, and culture through grant programs such as the *Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program*, special projects, and documentation. He has participated in and conducted projects involving the impact of folk art and folk traditions on health and well-being. Troyd originated and runs the NDCA's *Art for Life Program* which seeks to improve the emotional and physical health of elders in care facilities through intensive art and artist interaction. With Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz, Troyd co-edited, co-compiled, and co-authored the book *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*.

Statement from Geist on the artwork:

Folk artists in North Dakota, like many of our citizens, lead their lives in quiet modesty. Doing what they do without calling attention to it; living their lives and their traditions. Yet what they do is far from ordinary. It is extraordinary and beautiful. I try to present people within this context of humility and beauty within ordinary life. Whether the photos are taken in a dark blacksmith shop with light streaming in from the window or feature the hands of a woodcarver holding something he created, a sense of "that's like my uncle" or "that's like my grandma" is what I like to spark in people. These images, taken during fieldwork for the NDCA, represent "regular" people of various ethnicities engaged in a wide array of traditions around the state.

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The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.