



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For more information, contact Amy Schmidt, ND Council on the Arts, (701) 328-7594

**North Dakota Artist's Works Exhibited in Offices of the Governor and First Lady**

The North Dakota Council on the Arts, along with the offices of Governor Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, will be exhibiting the works of Bismarck artist Leon Basler at the Capitol Building in Bismarck during the months of July, August and September. Basler's works will be on display in the Governor's ground floor and first floor offices, the First Lady's fourth floor office, and the Attorney General's first floor office.

This is part of an ongoing program between the NDCA and the offices of the Governor and First Lady. Artists looking to represent their region with art work placed in the offices of the governor and first lady can submit a brief resume along with photographs or slides 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.

Leon is a native of Ste. Genevieve, MO. He attended Southeast Missouri State University, Chicago Art Institute, Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, and American Academy of Fine Arts, Chicago. He has studied privately under Missouri artists M. Charles Rhinehart, Dhimitri Zonia and Colorado artist Leawn Hlavachick.

Leon worked as a freelance artist for cartoonist Fred Lasswell, who wrote and drew the Barney Google and Snuffy Smith cartoon strip, and has worked as an art director for various agencies throughout the Midwest. He was also an illustrator for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft, an art director and product designer for the pen manufacturer Sheaffer Eaton – Textron, an art and pottery teacher for a rehabilitation center for children, and a pilot/flight instructor.

Currently he lives in Bismarck and is employed with KLJ Engineering as a visual specialist. He has received national, regional and local recognition for his artwork and designs. His artwork is represented in galleries in SD, ND, WY, CO, WI and MO. Locally he has works on display at the Bismarck Veteran's Memorial Public Library, Amber's Dream at Sanford Health Center, State Historical Society of ND, KLJ headquarters and Minot Aero Center, Minot, ND. To contact Leon Basler, or to learn more, visit <http://www.leonbasler.com>.

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