

Artist Interview

Betty Sauer

by Kathleen Preece

Betty Sauer's siblings should have known better. Their favorite chant, as youngsters, was to suggest others not pay attention to their sister Betty, for she was "an artist."

Siblings will be siblings.

Fortunately, however, parents will be parents. When Betty's father took a picture she had drawn for him, admired it, dubbed it as 'wonderful,' and hung it on his office wall, the soul of an artist was germinated.

"He believed in me," Betty recalls. That affirmation has been extended to Bemidji area artist, Betty Sauer, by students, admirers of oils and watercolors, and by fellow painters.

Betty's name is familiar to residents of northern Minnesota. Her husband, the late Phillip Sauer, was a long time advocate and supporter of the arts, dedicating many years of his life toward keeping arts a vital part of the Bemidji community.

Perhaps unknown to most, however, was Phillip's support and early recognition of the unique talent of his wife, Betty. Phillip encouraged Betty to take art classes during the couple's first year of marriage while they lived in Germany. She did just that, studying oils at Freiberg University. Upon the couple's return to the United States, Betty continued her art major, admitting she attended college 'intermittently' to make time to raise three sons. She notes that husband Phillip continued to "push me!"

A box of ribbons and awards attest to the fact that Betty's 'intermittent' artistry did not go unnoticed. The ribbons are numerous, among the many are those reading "Artist of Minnesota," "Art in the Park," "Super Gold Artist," and "People's Art Festival."

Oils were Betty's first medium. Since those early years of painting, however, Betty has perhaps become best known for her watercolors. Those familiar with the arts in the Bemidji area will appreciate hearing the names of friends and mentors who helped Betty bring her own talents to life.

Betty Sauer . . . continued on page 3.

Region 2 Arts Council Offers Grants

R2AC has grant deadlines for eligible artists and arts organizations in the five county area of Region 2, including Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties.

Individual Artists Grants

February 9

Designed for artists at various career stages for production or exhibition of art, performances, materials/equipment, workshop fees/travel, mentorships and projects.

GenOp Support Grants

February 17

A 3-year award for 501(c) 3 arts organizations for general operating expenses.

Anishinabe Arts Initiative

March 9

Grants awarded to individuals, schools, and organizations for projects that address AAI's mission of supporting, maintaining, and promoting traditional and contemporary Native American art in north central Minnesota.

Arts Projects Grants

March 16

For any organization, school, or community group that needs funding assistance with an arts project or event.

To request an application form, call Terri Widman at 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447. Staff assistance is available to all applicants to discuss ideas, select artists, or to assist in completing the application form. You can download the application forms at www.r2arts.org.

Arts Advocacy Day Feb. 22, 2005

*More important now than ever!
Funding for the arts in doubt again this year.*

The state is facing another deficit of \$700 million. That means we must be vigilant about fighting off any attempted cuts to the arts. Arts advocates must mobilize to make sure legislators understand the impact of previous budget cuts. On Arts Advocacy Day we will be coming together to talk about the arts and educate legislators about the importance of the arts to Minnesota.

A major part of the Region 2 Arts Council's funding comes from the State Legislature. For R2AC to continue funding grants to local arts and arts organizations, it is vital that legislators hear that you value funding for the arts.

You are invited to **Arts Advocacy Day 2005** at the State Capitol in St. Paul on February 22. If you cannot attend, please email or call your legislators to ask them to support arts funding. For more information or to register for Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, go to the Minnesota Citizens for the Arts Website: <http://www.mtn.org/mca/> or call 651-251-0868.

February Showcase Artist:

Betty Sauer

(See page 4)



Watercolor
"Friend"

NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, published 9 times per year, with a distribution of over 1,300.

Funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, *Northern Arts News* provides news and information to artists in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties of north central Minnesota.

We welcome:

- topics of story ideas;
- guest commentary topic ideas;
- invitations to other artists;
- collaboration and registration notifications.

To submit information and/or to be added to our mailing list, contact the R2AC office:

Call: 751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447

FAX: 218-751-2777

Email: r2arts@paulbunyan.net

Web site: www.r2arts.org

Northern Arts News
Region 2 Arts Council
426 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, MN 56601

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GUEST COMMENTARY inquiries are invited. Submit your topic idea to Terri Widman by telephone, FAX, or email. Selected works must be previously unpublished and fit within the space allotment.

Due to the advanced print deadlines of this publication, we suggest that you call to confirm dates, times, and other pertinent information about events and opportunities listed here.

Betty Sauer . . . continued from page 1.

"Leonard Melville and Claudine Matson convinced a 'convoy' of us to attend a watercolor workshop at Quetico presented by a renown artist Szabo. He opened the door to the world of watercolor for me."

Since that door was opened, Betty has created numerous works, ranging from portraits of family and pastoral scenes of her home town of Winona, to flowers and forests.

"I see inspiration in the smallest of things," Betty explains. "I will see something and say, 'yes,' that is an idea, and then I enlarge upon it using my own imagination."

Has she ever started a piece that she could not finish?
"Oh, dozens of times!"

"And I am so 'scotch' I turn the piece over and paint the canvas on the other side."

Betty recalls with a smile, the painting she started, turned over, and painted again. And then she found an admirer who framed both sides in glass!

Bemidji's Gallery North, a cooperative art group, has earned Betty's high praises as an entity of support and an outlet to sell her work. She is a strong advocate of allowing would-be and aspiring artists to be allowed to show their work and to gain the experience of being critiqued.

Her advice to these novices?

"I praise them," Betty says. "When others ask me to look at their work, it tells me they are anxious to improve and to learn. I start out by saying a piece is, indeed, truly 'wonderful;' that its subject is a good idea and that the colors used indicate fine talent.

"And then I say, 'you may want to check on your perspective.' If they are interested in hearing more, I share more."

Betty recalls the words of the late Leonard Melville when asked how long it takes to create a work:

"Three hours and a lifetime." Pay attention! The artistry of Betty's 'lifetime' can be seen framed throughout her home, in Minnesota galleries, and at artist's exhibits throughout the region. Not surprising, for she is truly, an artist.

Region 2 Arts Council Announces Individual Artist Grant Awards

Shannon Wettstein, Bemidji - \$1000 to underwrite a solo piano recital tour of Minnesota, North Carolina, and South Carolina during February 2005.

Sean Hill, Bemidji - \$1000 to enter his book-length poetry manuscript, *The Union Recorder*, in poetry contests.

JoAnn Hovet, Bemidji - \$1,000 to advance her artistic career by creating and marketing quality archival prints.

Trisha Grover, Bemidji - \$885 to attend the 39th Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mark Hendrickson, Bagley - \$1,000 to complete an adaptive guitar and assist in its field test at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Minneapolis.

Building a Bridge Between Learners

Picture this: Learners from Voyageurs Expeditionary High School (VEHS) profiled Northwest Technical College (NTC) students using photography and personal interviews during a collaborative project between Voyageurs, NTC and the Region 2 Arts Council.

Voyageurs and NTC learners were paired up so the high schoolers could interview, photograph, and attend classes with their NTC partners.

The on-campus visit, and one on one contact, let the high school Voyageurs experience, first hand, what attending college is like, as well as to explore career and education options.

A bonus for the day was the opportunity to put to use the photography skills they learned last September during an artist-in-residence experience at Voyageurs High School, funded by an Arts in Education grant.

The resultant photographs and accompanying text will be on display at NTC throughout the rest of the academic year, as part of an effort by Provost Giamonna to bring the humanities to NTC.

The project was spearheaded by Lisa Bruns, External Affairs for Northwest Technical College; Mary Thoreson, Arts Marketing Consultant for Region 2 Arts Council and Extended Learning Program Director at VEHS; and Cindy Nelson, English/Humanities instructor at VEHS.

OPPORTUNITIES

Feb. 1 deadline "Printmaking Residencies" from the Plains Art Museum, Fargo. Four, five-week residencies available at Hannahar's Inc. Print Studio. www.plainsart.org.

Feb. 4 deadline **Northern Lights Juried Art Exhibition.** Recent original drawings, paintings, fiber, hand-pulled prints, photography, and sculpture. Exhibition dates: March 6-April 8. Entry fees for up to five images, \$40. Contact Northern Lights Exhibition, White Bear Center for the Arts, 2228 Fourth St. White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

Feb. 5 **John Zasada,** "Weaving Birch Bark Salt Boxes." 9 a.m.-4 p.m., MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, \$30. For information, call 218-326-2697.

Feb. 7 deadline "Ridgedale Library Call for Artists," to do mural, suspended art and floor tile design. Contact FORECAST at 651-641-1128.

Feb. 12-13 **Winter Art & Craft Show,** Fergus Falls. Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. Noon-5 p.m. For information call 218-739-4439.

Feb. 23-March 23, Wednesdays "Back to the Basics." **Pottery with Joan Beech.** 12 noon-2:30 p.m. \$60. MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, \$30. For information, call 218-326-2697.

Feb. 25-25 **Oil Painting Still Life/Floral with Donna LaBeau.** 9 a.m.-noon. \$75 plus \$20 supplies. MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, \$30. Call 218-326-2697.

March 7 Deadline **Call for Entries: Art Fair on the Square.** The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art invites artists to submit slides of work for jury review. Fair to be held July 9 & 10. For information, request an application from Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 222 West Washington Ave. Suite 350, Madison, WI 53703. Or: www.mmoca.org.

March 30-April 9 **Yucatan Ceramics Trip.** This 11-day journey starts in the Mayan heartland and concludes on Mexico's Caribbean coast. No experience needed. \$1,695 includes major expenses except air

Executive Director Position Open

The Perpich Center for Arts Education is looking for an executive director. The director will oversee all management and operations of the Center which houses the Arts High School, Professional Development Institute, Learning Resource Center, and the Research, Assessment and Curriculum Center.

For information and application materials, contact: Kou Vang at kou.vang@pcae.k12.mn.us or 763-591-4718. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

About the Showcase Artist Betty Sauer

Artist's Statement:

"I see inspiration in the smallest of things. I will see something and say, 'yes,' that is an idea, and then I enlarge upon it using my own imagination."

Watercolor
"Home" in Winona



MORE OPPORTUNITIES

and some materials. For information, call 866-779-9503 or info@livingadventure.com. Web site: www.livingadventure.com.

July 27-Aug. 6 **A Journey to Arcadia.** A poetic workshop led by Dr. CarolAnn Russell. Held in Villa Vergiliana, Cumae, Italy. Program cost is \$1,750 and includes accommodations, meals, travel in Italy, and tips and taxes. **March 15 deadline** to submit \$800 non-refundable deposit. To register/complete an application: www.vergil.clarku.edu/poetryworkshop/appl.htm.

Mask and Rose Women's Theater Troupe

First Organizational Meeting Tuesday, February 15

Come to an informational meeting to see if you would like to join this newly forming group which will promote theater opportunities (onstage and offstage technical roles) for women in the northern Minnesota region.

All women who love theater, ages 14-80 plus, are welcome to see what this group will offer for opportunity in the theater arts. First meeting will be held at Moose- A- Brew across from old Marketplace Foods in Union Square from 6:00-6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15th.

The first production tentatively -- "Lettice and Lovage" by Peter Shaffer (Amadeus- Equus) is fall of 2005. Second event, Fringe Festival Frozen North, in the winter 2006.

For further information, contact Catie Belleveau at: kayakc@paulbunyan.net or 243-2685.

Third Annual Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference June 19 to June 24, 2005 - Bemidji State University

Faculty:

Kevin Young - Distinguished Visiting Writer, **Rikki Ducornet** - Fiction, **Sue Silverman** - Novice, **Nancy Willard** - Poetry, **Wayne Johnson** - Scriptwriting, and **Tina Parke-Sutherland** - Creative Nonfiction

Application: Applicants must submit a 5-10 page manuscript in the genre in which they are applying with the exception of the Novice Workshop.

Cost: \$425 includes some meals. Discounted conference fee of \$399 for participants who register by **March 1**.

Eligibility requirements: For writers at any stage of development who work hard at their writing and want to better understand the creative act.

Contact:

Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference, Attn: Susan Carol Hauser, Bemidji State University, Box 4, 1500 Birchmont Drive, Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-755-2068 or writersconference@bemidjistate.edu.

Opportunities for Artists

Feb. 1 Juried Exhibition of Art Quilts: The LowerTown Arts District invites entries to the juried exhibition of art quilts that will be held in Paducah, Kentucky. Quilts must be available for purchase. Entry fee is \$25 for up to three works and \$5 for each additional work. Cash prizes awarded.
Contact: www.quiltwalk.bluefrogdesigns.com **E-mail:** aynex@aynex.com

Feb. 4 IFP MSP/McKnight Artist Fellowships for Screenwriters: IFP MSP announces its call for entries to recognize and support resident screenwriters of Minnesota who have excelled in the artistic discipline of writing for cinema. Two of the fellows will receive awards and will automatically be admitted to the prestigious and competitive 2005 IFP Market in New York City.
Contact: www.ifpmsp.org/grants.htm **Phone:** 612-338-0871

Feb. 7 The Art of Recovery: The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs and the Minnesota State ARts Board invite entries for the second annual juried art exhibit, "The Art of Recovery."
Contact: www.arts.state.mn.us/other/crime_victims.htm
Phone: 651-215-1607.

Feb. 11 BMI Student Composer Awards Competition: The BMI Foundation's 2005 competition is open to students who are citizens of the Western Hemisphere and are under 26 years of age on Dec. 31, 2004.
Contact: www.bmifoundation.org **E-mail:** classical@bmi.com

For additional opportunities, check out:
www.arts.state.mn.us/other/artist_opps.htm

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Through Feb. 18

Patrick Schmidt exhibits "Patterns" in the Talley Gallery at Bemidji State University. For info. : 218-755-3708.

Through Feb. 28

"Focus On Function," Bemidji Community Arts Center's members' show. An eclectic exhibition of works by, or in possession of BCAC members. Opening reception, Friday, Feb. 4, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Lecture at 6 p.m. For information, 218-444-7570.

Through April 17

"Windows to the World: Refugees and Immigrants in Fargo-Moorhead." Serkland and Xcel Energy Galleries at Plains Art Museum, Fargo. 701-232-3821

February 3 "Confluence" at the Reif Center, Grand Rapids. 7:30 p.m. For ticket information: 218-327-5780.

Feb. 4-6 Midwinter Bluegrass Music Weekend, Blackduck.

Featuring the Berge Family, Homeward Bound, Better Than Nothin' Family Players. Workshops, concerts, and dance. For information, call 218-835-7810.

Feb. 12 White Elephant sale and bake sale at Beltrami County Historical Society, at the

History Center, 130 Minnesota Ave. SW. in Bemidji, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments and dessert samples made from recipes in the cookbook, *Beltrami County Cooks!* will be served. For more information, call 218-444-3376.

February 12 Claudia Schmidt in concert, 7:30 p.m. Paul Bunyan Playhouse. Fundraising concert for the Headwaters School of Music and the Arts. Call 218-444-5606.

Springboard for the Arts Spring Workshops

February

- 1 Marketing 101, Stillwater.
- 5 Working Across Cultural Boundaries, Minneapolis
- 8 Developing Your Portfolio. Working with a Gallery, Stillwater.
- 10 Peer Roundtable Information Meeting, St. Paul.
- 12 Dangerous Dreaming, Minneapolis.
- 14 Artist Loan Fund Information Meeting, Bloomington
- 15 Time Management for Creative People, St. Paul.
- 17 The New Technology and the Arts (on-line).
- 22 Pricing Your Work, St. Paul.
- 23 Professional Practices Workshop for Musicians, St. Paul.

March

- 2 Artist Loan Fund information Meeting, Minneapolis
- 3 Legal Live (on line).
- 5 How to Work with Your professional Photographer, St. Paul.

For information and to register:
www.springboardforthearts.org or 651-292-4381.

Bemidji State University (BSU) Music & Theatre Departments Performance Calendar

February

5	Jazz Fest Concert	7:30 p.m.	Beaux Arts Ballroom
6	Matt Marsolek and Katie VanDermeer	3:00 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
6	Flute Studio Recital	7:30 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
13	Baroque Ensemble	3:00 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
20	Wind Ensemble Concert	3:00 p.m.	Beaux Arts Ballroom
25-26	Theatre Prod. <i>Tartuffe</i>	7:29 p.m.	Main Theatre
27	Bemidji Symph. Orch.	3:00 p.m.	Bemidji High School Aud.

March

4, 5	Theatre Prod. <i>Tartuffe</i>	7:29 p.m.	Main Theatre
5	Bemidji Concert: Jazz	7:30 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
6	Theatre Prod. <i>Tartuffe</i>	3:00 p.m.	Main Theatre
6	Recital: Matthew Voeltz	3:00 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
9	BSU Varsity Singers	7:30 p.m.	Thompson Recital Hall
10	BSU Concert Choir	7:30 p.m.	Main Theatre

For information on Bemidji State University Music and Theatre Department performances and concerts, call:
Meredith Brown at 218-755-2915.

Feb. 12 NO Second Saturday Coffeeshouse.

February 18 Caleigh Celtic 10-Year Anniversary Concert. Headwaters School of Music & the Arts. Tickets at the door. For information, contact Lenore Siems, 218-759-9534.

February 18 Creative Words Coffeeshouse at Trek North High School, Bemidji. Reading starts at 7 p.m. Contact Karen Forbes at 444-1888 Ext. 2 if you have questions.

Feb. 19 Steve Hirsh Jazz Quartet. 7-9 pm. Uptown Caffe, Bemidji. Call 218-444-5282.

MARCH

March 1-31 Bemidji State University Student Awards Exhibition at Bemidji Community Arts Center. Opening reception: Friday, March 4, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Lecture at 6 p.m. In Gallery X2, Natalia Klyova, "Painting and Variations." Call 218-444-7570.

March 4-5, 10-13

"My Fair Lady," presented by the Bemidji Community Theatre. Shows on stage at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse, 7:30 p.m., except on Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets available after Feb. 18 at Iverson Corner Drugs and in the mall at Ken K. Thompson. 751-9194.

March 8 "Freezing Paradise: An Evening with Kevin Kling." The Bemidji performance of the Guthrie Theater tour. 7:29 p.m. Bangsberg Main Stage, Bemidji State University. For information, call 218-755-2915.

March 11-12 Spring Craft Festival, International Mall, International Falls. Fri. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 218-283-9888.

February is . . .

Warm Your Heart With a Little Art Month

What? During the month of February, members of Gallery North, Bemidji, are offering a variety of free Mini Art Classes. It is their way of giving back to, and sharing their knowledge with the community.

How? Classes are free; participants must purchase materials. Registration is not required but a call should be made to Gallery North at 218-444-9813 to find out what materials are needed.

When? Classes are held from 2-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at Gallery North, 503 3rd St. NW - across from the Bemidji Woolen Mills and next to Grandma's Attic.

Wednesday, Feb. 2	Fabric Painting with <i>Judy Selby</i>
Saturday, Feb. 5	First Beginner Basketry with <i>Monie Martin</i>
Monday, Feb. 7	First Beginner Acrylics with <i>Maureen O'Brien</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 9	Origami with <i>Mary Knox Johnson</i>
Friday, Feb. 11	Tatting with <i>Maire Hamre</i>
Saturday, Feb. 12	Watercolor Greeting Cards with <i>Patty Persell</i>
Monday, Feb. 14	Handmade Books with <i>Kathy Gustafson</i>
Wednesday Feb. 16	Abstract Fabric Collage with <i>Beverlee Olson</i>
Friday, Feb. 18	Acrylic Greeting Cards with <i>Grace Garland</i>
Saturday, Feb. 19	Feather Painting with <i>Marion Reil</i>
Monday, Feb. 21	Found Objects Mixed Media Abstract with <i>B. Olson</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 23	Feature Painting with <i>Marion Reil</i>
Friday, Feb. 15	Crazy Quilts with <i>Gail Ahern</i>
Saturday, Feb. 26	Watercolor Project with <i>Joyce Martin</i>
Monday, Feb. 28	First Beginner Knitting with <i>Linda Ward</i>

Samples of many of these projects are on display at the Gallery.
For more information, call the Gallery between 10 a.m-5 p.m.,
Monday-Saturday. 218-444-9813.

APRIL

April 7-May 29
The Lion King at Orpheum Theatre, Hennepin Theatre District. Call 612-673-0404 or online:ticketmaster.com.

Submit your news of
the arts by February 10
for the
March/April issue
of Region 2
"Northern Arts News"
r2arts@paulbunyan.net
or
kathleen@uslink.net



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NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation. Mission: *The Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education, and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties.*"

Noteworthy

Gail Ahern's, Bemidji, Ukrainian tour quilt was featured on CBC and CNN world news in conjunction with the Ukrainian Ambassador's visit to Winnipeg.

Al Belleveau, Bemidji, was a finalist for his sculpture works in a juried competition for Artrom Gallery in Rome, Italy and will serve as artist-in-residence at the Xache Arts School in Taos, New Mexico in March 2005.

Joyce Laporte was honored by the Two River Gallery in recognition of the importance of artists working with endangered environmental materials. Laporte uses leathers in her traditional faceless Ojibwe doll making, handed down to her from her grandmother.

Jay B. Jones, Clearwater, was honored at an artist's reception in January at the MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, for his exhibit, "Crossings."

Artist Studios for Rent

The Bemidji Community Arts Center, downtown Bemidji, has two studios available. The 10' x10' spaces rent for \$75 per month. If interested, call 444-7570 or email: bcac@paulbunyan.net.

Have an idea for a workshop?

Region 2 Arts Council has money available to bring a workshop to your community and we are anxious to hear your ideas.

Workshop funding is open to any group that wants to bring in an artist or arts professional to conduct a workshop. It is also open to artists who wish to present a workshop themselves. We will consider ideas in all arts disciplines—we will help by paying the bills, managing registration, postage, and promotion.

The focus of your workshop may be topics such as learning an art technique, learning more about the business of being an artist, or maybe a community discussion of art. The key to a successful proposal is that you emphasize high-quality adult learning and that your presenter is both experienced and proficient. The workshop must be open to the public.

Because these are partnerships and not grants, there is no deadline date. We will review your written proposal at a board meeting and if it is approved, we will start working with you to make it happen.

Feel free to call Terri Widman to discuss your ideas at 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447.