





SALINA ART CENTER MISSION

Creating
exchanges
among art,
artists, and
audiences that
reveal life

From the Board President

This has been a dynamic year of transition for the Salina Art Center. In September 2005, new director, Heather Ferrell, began the awesome task of meeting hundreds of people, familiarizing herself with the Art Center's history, mission, budgets, board and staff in order to assure its continuation and development. At the same time Heather confidently yet gently began to apply her own unique gifts to the Art Center.

In February 2006, the board of trustees made important decisions about the allocation of undesignated funds collected through the Art@theCenter capital campaign which realized 1.1 million in cash contributions as well as another \$100,000 of in-kind gifts. During the spring and summer the Warehouse Committee considered qualifications of nine architectural firms from Kansas, Missouri, and New York City for the warehouse renovation, and narrowed their selection to three firms from which they recommended to the board of directors Sabatini Architects of Lawrence, Kansas (September 2006). The committee has continued to develop a plan with the architects and expects completed designs and construction through 2007. With the opening of the warehouse space, the Salina Art Center will have three locations in downtown Salina: gallery and office space at 242 S. Santa Fe; films at the Art Center Cinema located at 150 S. Santa Fe; and a live-work space for an artist residency program at the 4th street warehouse.

The Art Center's 2005-2006 exhibition programs began with one of its most comprehensive and involved shows ever: *Eating: A Community Project Exploring What, How, & Why We Eat*. A special committee of local people worked with guest curator Stacy Switzer to select eleven mostly emerging artists to examine some of the contemporary issues and attitudes about food and sustenance. Together they planned and executed an impressive array of associated activities and events both at the Art Center and at other locations within the Salina community.

On view in the galleries from February through May 2006 *Crossing Over: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture and Techno-Science*, nine contemporary artists used ceramic sculpture to investigate techno-science topics ranging from genetic engineering and hybrids to mapping of personalities in the structure of DNA. The exhibit was curated by noted critic and art historian Dr. Glen Brown, Associate Professor of Art History at Kansas State University, and a ceramics symposium presented by visiting artists Neil Forrest, Elissa Armstrong and David East proved to be a highlight of the show.

From June through August, the Art Center exhibited 65 works from the Hechinger Collection that represent or incorporate everyday tools and hardware as part of the *Tools as Art* exhibition. Spanning a wide range of styles and themes, the exhibit honored the commonplace, blurring the lines between form and function and revealing the attachment people have to the ordinary tools in their lives.

In conjunction with the theme of ordinary tools and found objects as art, the Art Center collaborated with the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission in bringing Mr. Imagination to the Smoky Hill River Festival to participate in a community "fish" art project. A self-taught artist and legend of the Chicago art scene, Mr. Imagination works with common, everyday objects transforming bottle caps, saws, brooms, and paintbrushes into art.

Transitions can be exciting and energizing, and the Art Center has proven once again its flexibility and openness to growth. This is an institution that steps up to the plate time and again with a strong and dedicated staff, board and donors. Congratulations to all the members for your commitment and belief in the Art Center making possible an exciting future for art in Salina.



Fr. Frank Coady
President
Salina Art Center
Board of Directors

Exhibitions

The 2005-2006 year at the Salina Art Center was marked by the fresh vision of the Salina Art Center's new director, Heather Ferrell, with a renewed commitment to collaborating and connecting with our community through art. Enriching exhibitions, thought-provoking films, community discussions, artist residencies, classes, workshops and gallery tours all contributed to the Art Center's mission of creating exchanges that reveal life.

Making connections between exhibitions and community audiences was realized this year through three artist's residencies: Tania Candiani and Fritz Haeg during the exhibition *Eating: A Community Project Exploring What, How & Why We Eat*, and Mr. Imagination during *Tools as Art: The Hechinger Collection* and the Smoky Hill River Festival. These residencies and artists provided interactive engagement with the Salina community through thought-provoking educational and creative opportunities and lively conversation that will enrich the lives of the many that experienced these artists at work.



Eating: A Community Project Exploring What, How & Why We Eat

JUNE 3-AUGUST 26, 2006

Eating is basic to existence – we eat to survive, but we also eat to celebrate, to share, to quell boredom, to satisfy cravings, and to win contests at county fairs. Eating satisfies deep personal and collective needs, and our decisions about whether and how, what and when, where and with who to eat are loaded with personal, social, economic, political, ecological, religious, sexual and ethical implications. It makes sense to take stock of what we think about eating.

The Salina Art Center's *Eating* project cast a wide net – inviting community participation in an open-ended discussion about a shared experience that is intrinsic to our daily lives.

The *Eating* exhibition partnered the Art Center with 20 local organizations in an effort to connect art and community through a variety of cross-programming that included book clubs, traditional arts and gardening workshops, and tours. In conjunction with *Eating*, the Art Center invited two of the exhibit and internationally recognized artists, Fritz Haeg and Tania Candiani, to participate in extended artist residencies in Salina as part of its *Artist Initiative* program.



Rangoli, an art form popular in India, was taught at a workshop led by Priti Cox in conjunction with the Eating exhibition.

Fritz Haeg EDIBLE ESTATES

Fritz Haeg, Los Angeles, California, made several trips to Salina during the summer to supervise the creation of *Edible Estates*. The project replaced the front yard of Stan and Priti Cox at 712 Custer in Salina, with entirely edible plantings, receiving attention in several national publications including the *New York Times*.



Tania Candiani FOOD QUILT

Tania Candiani, Tijuana, Mexico, spent the month of September collecting favorite foods from individuals and groups in the Salina community. The food was vacuumed-sealed and sewn into a giant quilt that was suspended in the Art Center's front windows during the *Eating* exhibition.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Installation views of Eating

Callyann Casteel / Hamburger and Calculator Costumes, 2002
Soft sculpture costumes

Tania Candiani / Voracity/Eating is a Sin, 2001
Acrylic, graphite & cotton thread sewn on canvas

Cindy Zimmerman / Pilgrimage from Lubberland, 2005 / Mixed media



The Eating exhibition was supported in part by The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities.



Adelaide Paul / Untitled/Pink Standing Horse, 2005 / Porcelain, leather

Neil Forrest was one of three Crossing Over artists to facilitate a day-long ceramics symposium during the exhibition.

Crossing Over: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture and Techno- Science

FEBRUARY 18-MAY 14, 2006

Ceramists have long investigated problems involving chemistry of glazes or thermal efficiency of kiln designs. Recently, however, the medium-specific interest in science and technology has expanded dramatically with many contemporary ceramic artists engaging in aspects of genetics, artificial intelligence or virtual reality. Investigating themes from gene manipulation in animals to mapping of personalities in the structure of DNA, their works cross boundaries between art and science and address some of today's most provocative social issues.



**CROSSING
OVER** contemporary ceramic sculpture
and techno-science



Gerry Neustrom Young Artist Challenge

APRIL 2-23, 2006

This annual competition, juried by *Crossing Over* artist Elissa Armstrong, is open to high school students from 44 Kansas counties. A three-week exhibition held at Salina's Central Mall displays work that demonstrates the highest level of imagination, exploration, and dedication. This memorial competition and exhibition are supported by the family of Gerry Neustrom, in honor of her interest in aspiring artists and to encourage and recognize young artists in central and northwest Kansas.

Tools as Art: The Hechinger Collection

JUNE 3-AUGUST 26, 2006

The Hechinger Collection included an amazing variety of 20th-century art that represents or incorporates everyday tools and hardware. The exhibition features highlights from the unique holdings of hardware industry pioneer John W. Hechinger, who began collecting art for his corporate headquarters. From a glass hammer to a gracefully designed chair made from a yard rake, *Tools as Art* included elegant and witty sculptures, paintings, prints and photographs depicting tools of all varieties and forms. Spanning a wide range of styles and themes, the collection honors the commonplace, blurring the lines between form and function and revealing the attachment we have to the everyday tools in our lives. One of the exhibition's artists, Mr. Imagination, spent the week of the River Festival in Salina, conducting a residency at the annual event and offering a children's workshop to members and the general public at the Art Center.

Tools as Art was organized by International Art & Artists, Washington D.C., with its Art Center presentation made possible in part by two Salina businesses, Exline, Inc. and Waters True Value Hardware & Earthcare Services. Both companies were invited to participate in the community dialogue on our shared stories with tools through company cookouts, receptions, or as guest speakers at the Salina Art Center.

Jim Dine / The New French Tools 3, 1984
Hand ground etching with drypoint



The Fascinating World of Mr. Imagination

SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL RESIDENCY

JUNE 4-11, 2006

For his visit to Salina, Mr. Imagination (or "Mr. I," as he prefers to be addressed) asked visitors to just use their imagination and participate in a community project where they could collaboratively create large-scale, decorative sculptures made from recycled materials. A self-taught artist and legend of the Chicago art scene, Mr. I works with common, everyday objects transforming bottle caps, saws, brooms, and paintbrushes into art. Featured at the Festival was the artist's imposing throne of red velvet, composed entirely of thousands of painstakingly nailed bottle caps, accompanied by matching regal scepter, hat, and towering totems where visitors could sit enthroned and talk with the artist.



Education



The Salina Art Center enriched individual learning experiences, engaging participants of all ages in active encounters with visual art. During the past year, the Art Center served more than 600 children and adults through 34 docent-led tours of exhibitions. Education program planning and evaluation was strengthened by several new and ongoing collaborative relationships with teachers, students, families, and community partners.

This year the docent program was retooled and revitalized with volunteers working with staff to plan an ongoing schedule of monthly meetings which included discussion of exhibitions, useful learning and teaching resources, and field trips to other museums in the region. *SummerART* served as a lively prelude to the upcoming *Eating* exhibition, as teachers and students created artwork based upon themes incorporated in the show. A new program, *Second Sundays*, offered young children and their families an opportunity to make art together in a format that builds art vocabulary and skills. During the year several public gallery walks and discussions were led by staff and guest community members for Art Center exhibitions, such as *Eating* and *Tools as Art*, with adult workshops and a symposium featuring the guest curator and three visiting artists occurring in conjunction with *Crossing Over*.

Art Center exhibitions serve as catalysts for learning at every age and stage of life, and the Art Center continues to serve as a community gathering place for anyone interested in examining contemporary concepts, issues, and concerns through the prism of visual art.



Public Programs & Events

Programs

ART BASICS

Drawing and painting classes offered year round designed for students age 8-18 to learn and practice the fundamentals of art.

ART TIME AFTERSCHOOL

Local and visiting artists teach these weekly art making sessions for students grades 1-8 throughout the school year.

MULTIARTS

A creative learning series that integrates visual and dramatic arts for preschoolers age 3-4 organized in partnership with Salina Community Theatre.

DISCOVERERS

During the school year, middle school students selected by teachers and counselors visit the art center once a week to work with Art Center staff and visiting artists to experience a variety of art media that includes visual and dramatics art and music.

SATURDAY ART STUDIO

Learners of all ages drop by the ARTery each Saturday for an independent or guided exploration of media and processes using the tools and techniques of different art forms.

SECOND SUNDAYS

Children and accompanying adults create art together with Salina art educator, Anne Nettleton, in these two-hour intergenerational sessions, held monthly in the ARTery.

STARTERS

Art classes for preschoolers age 4-6 who learn the fundamentals of art through weekly art projects which are coordinated in partnership with Salina Parks and Recreation.

SUMMER ART

Each summer the Art Center offers two months of week-long art classes for preschooler through eighth grade students taught by local artists and art educators. This program is offered in partnership with Salina Parks and Recreation and made possible in part by support through Sunflower Bank and in memory of Charles Stevens.

YOUNG ARTISTS IN ACTION

High school students participate in this collaborative peer program to produce creative, technically advanced artworks in cooperation with artists as they also explore arts-related professions.



Three annual open houses brought families from Salina and the surrounding area together to explore their imagination and to experience a variety of art processes and materials. *Pumpkin Carving* in October, *Holiday Open House* in December and *Spring Open House* in April, held in celebration of the Week of the Young Child, provided opportunities for families and friends to celebrate the arts while engaging in seasonal art activities. In addition to these open houses, the Art Center's fall and spring annual fundraising events *Grape Expectations* and *Pignic* gathered party-goers for fun, food, music and auctions while raising funds for the education and exhibitions programs. In March, an annual benefit for the Art Center's Endowment, *Mardi Gras*, provided a fabulous evening of cajun food and dancing, and featured live music by recording artist Kelley Hunt.

Many thanks to our *Grape Expectations* invitation sponsors Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper Wenger Realtors, Land Title Services, and The Mortgage Company, *Pignic* invitation sponsors Boulevard Brewing Co. presented by Crown Distributors, as well as to UMB Bank and Salina Media Group for their sponsorship of the annual open houses.

Cinema

The Art Center Cinema once again provided moviegoers with a year of contemporary, independent and international films that were imaginative, exciting, thought-provoking and memorable. The Cinema makes it possible for Salina and regional audiences to experience films “on the big screen” that the filmmakers obviously cared about when making them, and films that audiences will think and talk about long after seeing them.

Film discussions and highlights from the season



Maurizio Bennazo, producer and international documentarian discussed the content and making of his film, *Shortcut to Nirvana*.



Literary critic and former English and film instructor, Shawn Crawford, made connections between the book and the film, *Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story*.



Kansas Wesleyan University professor Dr. William Brown facilitated a community discussion of *Saraband* and other Ingmar Bergman films.



Filmmaker Kevin Willmott, Dr. Dennis Denning, and Fr. Frank Coady addressed questions of the community regarding Willmott's film, *The Confederate States of America*.



The Cinema hosted a preview of the third season of *Art 21: Art in the 21st Century*, the PBS series focusing on contemporary art and artists in the United States.



Local film buffs viewed entries in the *Manhattan Short Film Festival*, and were able to vote for their favorites.

2005-2006 Films

- Upside of Anger
- Crash
- Walk on Water
- Ladies in Lavender
- Winter Solstice
- Look at Me
- Mad Hot Ballroom
- Layer Cake
- March of the Penguins
- Brothers
- My Summer Of Love
- Short Cut to Nirvana
- Manhattan Shorts
- Rize
- Best of Youth I
- Best of Youth II
- Me and You and Everyone We Know
- Junebug
- Murderball
- Yes
- Broken Flowers
- Kings and Queen
- Grizzly Man
- Constant Gardner
- Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill
- Saraband
- Everything is Illuminated
- Touch the Sound
- An Unfinished Life
- Kiss Kiss Bang Bang
- Good Night and Good Luck
- Pride and Prejudice
- History of Violence
- Music from the Inside Out
- Paradise Now
- The Squid and The Whale
- Ballets Russes
- Capote
- Mrs. Henderson Presents
- Match Point
- World's Fastest Indian
- Caché
- Confederate States of America
- Duma
- Far Side of the Moon
- Neil Young: Heart of Gold
- Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story
- Transamerica
- Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
- Thank You for Smoking
- Street Fight
- The Child
- Dave Chappelle's Block Party
- Tsotsi

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From the Director

Innovation. Connections. Learning. Relevance. Community. These are some of the words that emerged from our February staff retreat that embodied what we value at the Salina Art Center. These values imbue our exhibitions, films, and education and public programs. The annual report is an opportunity for us to look back at the last year and to share these values, what we have accomplished, and how we have enriched our community.

Filled with summaries and images of the past year's activities, the annual report also marks nearly a year of my tenure as the new director. This past year saw not only a major transition in leadership but was a year of reflection, purpose and growth. For over 17 years, my predecessor, Saralyn Reece Hardy inspired and shaped the Art Center into a nationally recognized, community-based art center. As the new director, it is my desire to continue to lead the Art Center to achieve its mission, to expand and deepen its connections with community, and to offer meaningful experiences through the lens of contemporary art.

One of our most comprehensive and ambitious projects this past year was the *Eating* exhibition, which included a rich variety of cross programming with over 20 partner institutions from throughout the community bringing new conversations and new faces to the Art Center. Both the *Eating* and *Crossing Over* exhibitions were featured or reviewed in national publications such as the *New York Times*, *Review*, and *Ceramics Art & Perception* magazine. During the year, several national and international visiting artists – Tania Candiani, Fritz Haeg, Neil Forrest, and Mr. Imagination – spent extended periods of time in Salina impacting over 2,500 people who directly encountered these artists first-hand through workshops, lectures, studio visits, or programs building the foundation for our artist residency program scheduled to begin in 2007-08.

Over the past year we have strived to foster deeper partnerships with educational institutions through cross-promotion and programming of visiting artists and expanded opportunities for students and faculty. We continued to strengthen and refine our education programs by reorganizing our docent program in the efforts to grow our corps and offer more tours; and, we began the process to hire a full-time Curator of Education who will help design several new education initiatives that better connect teachers, students, and audiences to the Art Center.

The Cinema had an excellent year as well. In addition to the quality films and public discussions that are typically available in only larger metropolitan cities, the Cinema continued to build its audience and was able to set aside some revenue to begin funding future equipment.

Sometimes our exhibitions and films are the “best kept secrets” in Kansas, so we have worked diligently this past year to expand our communications and marketing efforts and increase our visibility, including welcoming a Communications Coordinator to the staff in April. And, through the development of a new corporate sponsor plan, we were pleased to share our mission and opportunities with the business community, securing two local sponsors – Exline, Inc. and Waters True Value Hardware/Earthcare Systems – for our exhibit *Tools as Art*. As important as their financial support was the connection we made with new audiences, many of whom were introduced to the Art Center for the first time, through company events.

With the challenge of growth and change, comes the anticipation of possibilities and opportunities. Looking toward the next year, the Art Center will build upon the quality of its exhibitions, films, and education programs. We will continue to nurture the relationships and ideas we explored with the *Eating* exhibition by developing deeper relationships and partnerships within our community. And as part of our *Artist Initiative*, the warehouse renovation and residency program will move from a bold concept to a reality as designs are finalized, construction begins, and the program commences in Fall 2007.

There remain many opportunities to support the mission of the Art Center: we continue to seek gifts to our Art@theCenter campaign to reach our goal of 1.5 million; to identify corporate and private partners to better fund our exhibition and education programs; and your consideration of the Art Center in your estate planning.

The Art Center has always dreamed big and accomplished with incredible foresight and creativity what others may have only considered. At the core of these efforts is a dedicated and hard working staff, a passionate board of directors, devoted members and donors, and all of our many wonderful volunteers listed in this annual report who believe in our mission and role in the community. Thank you for a wonderful year.



Heather Ferrell
Director / Curator
Salina Art Center

*Salina Mayor Don Marrs and
Cody Perry-Phelps enjoy
creative fun and relaxation with
Salina Art Center visiting artist
Mr. Imagination at the Smoky Hill
River Festival.*



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