

August 30 through October 25, 2020

# *Spirit of Earth and Sky*

works by

**Angela Muller**  
of Russell, Kansas  
and

**Barbara Jo Stevens**  
of Downs, Kansas

## Angela Muller Statement

I paint to connect people to the spirit of wild things, so they may know they are part of something greater. From my studio at Fossil Lake, I study prairie life. I believe people who live on the land are tied to it in special ways.

We notice the geese migrating.

Sense a thunderstorm forming on the horizon.

Regard the changing cottonwoods.

My art is an abstract interpretation of the world around me - the land, storm, wind, and night sky. I build paintings with stone texture and embedded grain, then combine paint with gathered materials - such as wild prairie sage and cedar, soil, rust, stone, and rainwater - so people might share in this belonging.



*Moon Before Yule* by Angela Muller



*Fringed Primitive Vessel* by  
Barbara Jo Stevens

## Angela Muller Biography

I am an abstract artist who interprets the American Prairie. I combine paint with hand-gathered materials - such as grain, rust, and plant ash - to connect people to the spirit of wild things so they may know they are part of something greater. I began painting in 2010 when I returned to Kansas and saw the prairie with a new set of eyes, finding great teachers in cold moons, ancient stone, and storm. My paintings are completed in my studio at Fossil Lake in Russell, Kansas.

## Barbara Jo Stevens Statement

My husband and I are very interested in Native American history and, in visiting many museums and ancient sacred sites, I have become fascinated with the beauty of the simple forms and the incredible craftsmanship of their ancient pots. I also love the thought that I am tied to these ancient craftswomen of 1000 years ago who were daughters, wives, mothers as well as artists, just like me. This, along with being raised on a Kansas farm in the fifties, when life was simple and centered around the church and God's good earth, has influenced the earthy quality of my forms, progressing over the years to the simple primitive forms I am making today.

## Barbara Jo Stevens Biography

I grew up on a farm near Pawnee Rock in central Kansas. After getting my BA, focused on ceramic sculpture, at Fort Hays State University in 1971, I taught art to students from 4 years of age to almost 90 for over 40 years. I received my MLS in 2005 from FHSU. After being head of the art department at Cloud County Community College for thirteen years, I ended my teaching career in 2013. I served as the facilitator for the Whole Wall Project, the largest carved brick relief sculpture in the US, in Concordia for five years. This allowed me to develop the only accredited carved brick relief program in the U.S. I had three articles published in the *Ceramics Monthly* magazine in 2013 and 2014 and have had articles included in two American Ceramic Society books, the most recent being "Tips, Tools & Techniques" in December of 2017. I was featured as a new member in the fall, 2018, newsletter for the national Society of Layerists in Multi-Media (SLMM). I will also have two pieces included in the *Who Is God?* book published in the fall of 2020, featuring artists showing work that expresses their spirituality and perception of God.

After retirement in 2013, I have been working on my art full time. Since 2014, I have been in 10-15 shows a year including a solo show of 173 new pieces at the Deines Cultural Center in Russell. Additional exhibitions have been held at the Sandzén Gallery in Lindsborg; the Shafer Gallery at Barton Community College in Great Bend; the Hays Arts Center in Hays; the Hutchinson Art Center in Hutchinson; the Ellsworth Art Center in Ellsworth; Museum Contempo in Shelton, Washington; and others. I was the featured artist at Museum Contempo for their national installation exhibition. There I gave a 20 minute performance/presentation on my installation *Sacred Circle—God's Path* on April 6, 2019



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