

November 2, 2025, through January 11, 2026

Maleta Forsberg

Memorial Exhibition

honoring longtime Lindsborg artist

Maleta Forsberg



Lindsborg artist Maleta Forsberg (1931-2025) passed away in August of this year and the Gallery is honored to be able to present a special exhibition of her paintings. Maleta grew up and went to school in Colony, Kansas. As an artist, she was primarily self-taught, but did take classes at the Kansas City Art Institute and workshops with other artists throughout her life. She was a dedicated painter and did gallery exhibits, art fairs, studio shows, and showed in retirement homes, country clubs, and just about anywhere in the region that had an art space. She completed innumerable commissions, and has works in homes and collections throughout the United States and overseas.

Maleta also served in many leadership roles in community groups and art associations, including the Kansas Watercolor Society, Wichita Artists Guild, Wichita Women Artists, and the National League of American Pen Women. Additionally, she served as a newsletter editor for the Art Village League, taught at the Wichita Art Museum, and was active with the Wichita Art Association. In a *Wichita Eagle* article from 1968 for an artist studio tour she was participating in, the writer penned "Mrs. W. E. Forsberg, president of the Wichita Artists Guild, combines watercolor work with homemaking and keeping up with an active family. Her studio at 4125 E Central is a gathering place for neighborhood youngsters as well as a haven for her hobby." Two artists she mentored, out of many, are Curt Clonts from Wichita and John Keeling from Kansas City – both now highly respected artists.

In 1972, the family decided to leave Wichita and move closer to where Maleta's husband, Wayne, spent much of his childhood. They built a magnificent house west of Roxbury that was adjacent to the oldest one room school house in McPherson County. Known as Olive Springs School, Wayne's mother had attended there and his uncle was a teacher for a time. They slowly transformed the school into a showplace for Maleta's work and developed the land around it. Pets were also acquired, which by 1980 included buffalo, peacocks, ducks, geese, chickens, cattle, horses, five dogs, and three cats.

Maleta also drew immense inspiration from the land. In an article from 1973, she was quoted as saying "I've always loved the Kansas landscape. I've painted it with sandstorms blowing in my face, and when it was so cold out it was hard to use my hands. But I think anyone who wants to paint the landscape has to get out, not stay cooped up in a studio."

In the mid 1980's, she and Wayne took on another major project, opening the Courtyard in downtown Lindsborg. They gutted and remodeled the old Plaza Theater and a variety of shops opened up, including the Forsberg Gallery. It was there that they promoted and sold Maleta's art and that of other artists throughout the region and it became one of the most popular galleries in the state – enhancing Lindsborg's role as an art destination. Maleta's magnificent mural, *View From the Gazebo*, continues to grace the interior.

Maleta always had a close relationship with the Sandzén Gallery – serving on the board from 1999 to 2008 and was president her last two years. She had at least 5 major exhibitions

here, was generous financially, and also served on the Show Committee until the time of her death.

Over the years, Maleta won more than 30 awards in juried exhibitions, and in 2003 was named Lindsborg Arts Council's 'Artist of the Year.' She had a life filled with art and this exhibition plays homage to her versatility, dedication, and command of mediums.



Birger Sandzen
- MEMORIAL GALLERY -

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.



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