

November 2, 2025, through January 11, 2026

Reflecting on Raymer

works by

Lester Raymer

from the Gallery's collection
and the
Red Barn Studio Museum



Circus by Lester Raymer

Lester Winston Raymer was born September 24, 1907, in Alva, Oklahoma and also spent time growing up in Aurora, Colorado. He completed academic courses at Northwestern University in Alva, and then studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, graduating in 1935. His visits to Lindsborg began in the early 1940s after meeting his future wife, Ramona Weddle, at the Art Institute School earlier in the 1930s. He married Ramona in 1945 and started his life as a Lindsborg studio artist, working in a variety of media that included painting, ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, and more.

For the academic year 1946-47 Raymer taught art at Bethany College following Birger Sandzén's retirement. After that year, he continued to develop his Red Barn Studio practice and focused on being a full-time artist.

Raymer's work has been featured in many of the annual *Midwest Art Exhibitions* at the Sandzén Gallery. And, after the final phases of his career, hardly a year passed when the Gallery did not feature his work or include it in group exhibitions.

According to his student, Don Weddle, "*The Aerialists* (included in this exhibition) depicts performers floating effortlessly; in a magically transparent big top reminiscent of Chagall, the figures circle perpetually counter-clockwise over well-trained horses. Herein one senses Raymer making a connection between two of his favorite amusements: toys and the circus. It is as if one could wind up the painting...the music would begin, and the carousel would play on forever."

After a very successful career as an artist, Lester Raymer died on June 1, 1991, giving the Raymer Society the task of promoting his life and art in the Midwest. All are encouraged to visit the Red Barn Studio in Lindsborg at 212 South Main. There you will discover a studio that is a work of art by one of Lindsborg's finest and most versatile artists.



Birger Sandzén
- 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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