

Gallery welcomes Wyoming artist with Perkins County roots

Notes from Meadowlark Gallery

By the Perkins County Area Arts Council

The Perkins County Area Arts Council is proud to host open houses on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 5-6 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Meadowlark Gallery in Grant, where artist Kay Meeks will demonstrate her painting techniques. The public is invited to watch and ask questions as she walks through the five stages of creating a painting.

The arts council will also host a reception, open to the public, for Kay at the gallery on Sunday, April 7, noon to 2 p.m.

The daughter of John and Barbara Kraus, Kay Meeks was born in North Platte, the ninth of 11 children. She was raised on her father's wheat farm eight miles north of Madrid, and graduated from high school at Wheatland.

Kay went to the mountains of Wyoming for two years of college at Central Wyoming College in Riverton. There she studied art and had plans to become a teacher.

Turning down a scholarship to the University of Wyoming, Kay instead married George Meeks from Dubois, Wyo., putting her art "somewhat on hold" while raising her four children and being a ranch wife.

With the help of her husband, she built her own studio, where she now works, shows and teaches private lessons to anyone who has the desire to learn and develop their artistic skills.

Kay draws from the experiences she has had and the observations she has made on the ranch. Her subjects are varied and many.

"About the only thing I don't paint much is the human figure," said Kay.

The play of light on the landscape, flowers, animals or still life offer this artist plenty of inspiration. She carries her paints most of the time in the car and will stop at a moment's notice to paint in the open air. She works in many media—oil, watercolor, pencil, ball point pen, colored pencil, and pastel.

She has won numerous awards with her work and made history by being named Wyoming Artist Association's "Grand Wyoming Artist," first in 2001 and again in 2012. Kay shows mostly in Wyoming, but last year had a show at The Most Unlikely Place in Lewellen and the Petrified Wood Gallery in Ogallala.

She brings between 35-40 new pieces to Meadowlark Gallery in Grant, and will also spend time with Lance Wurst's art students at Perkins County High School on Friday April 5.

Kay would like to invite everyone to her show, where she will represent herself and her work, demonstrate painting on Friday and Saturday, April 5-6, 6 to 8 p.m. and reception on April 7, noon-2.

The show will hang at Meadowlark Gallery through the end of April.

She will also have a booth with her paintings at the upcoming fundraiser, "On the Trail to a

Cure,” 2013 Cattlemen’s Ball at the Hanging H Ranch, Paxton/Sutherland, June 7-8.

Next Month

Visit Meadowlark Gallery on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-8 p.m. March through November and check the arts council’s Facebook page for past shows and a current gallery schedule.