

Press Release



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For immediate release, please use any time until March 16, 2019

High resolution images available upon request!

The Stauth Memorial Museum opens *Small Wonders: Insects in Focus* in January

In the air, water, and even under foot, insects inhabit every domain of our daily lives, performing essential functions that balance our fragile ecosystem on earth. By using cutting-edge technology and custom methods, artist Bob Sober created **Small Wonders: Insects in Focus**, an exhibition of breathtaking beauty that allows viewers to see this hidden world like they've never seen it before. *Small Wonders* aims to inspire, in an artistic way, our natural curiosity to understand the form, function, and diversity of nature. The exhibition opens **January 29, 2019** at the Stauth Memorial Museum and will be on display through **March 16, 2019**.

Insects have been on earth 350 million years, while sharing the planet with humans for only the past 2 million years. Hundreds of thousands of insect species have been documented (scientists believe 30 million may exist), far outnumbering the total of all other animal species. Insects are so prolific that thousands share our own backyards.

Creating human-scale images of insects, with resolution so high that every hair, dimple, and tiny structure is clearly revealed, was impossible prior to the technological advancements of the past ten years. High-resolution digital cameras, fast personal computers, economical digital storage, and powerful software applications capable of assisting with the assembly of hundreds or thousands of individual photographs create the opportunity to capture accurate images of insects as they truly exist.

These new ways of seeing confront viewers with the idea that insects display the elements we attribute to good design or beautiful artwork. Colors like neon green, sapphire blue, crimson red, deep violet, and brilliant yellow are all part of the insect

world. Wild, multi-colored patterns sometimes come from hair, sometimes from iridescent scales, and other times from colors integral to the insect's exoskeleton. Smooth metallic finishes and heavily stippled texture may exist on the same insect. Strange body shapes, delicate wing structures, and beautifully engineered body components captivate. These tiny creatures are indeed artwork, in every sense of the word.

Bob Sober, a visual artist as well as technological pioneer whose photographic techniques are the subject of educational tutorials, offers a series of thirty images that bring the natural world to a scale rarely experienced until now. **Small Wonders** finds viewers at the intersection of art and science, and brings together two fields of thought in a provocative and inspiring way. The exhibition is organized by *ExhibitsUSA*, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

About ExhibitsUSA

This exhibition is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance. ExhibitsUSA sends more than twenty-five exhibitions on tour to over 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. These exhibitions create access to an array of arts and humanities experiences, nurture the understanding of diverse cultures and art forms, and encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in local communities. For more about ExhibitsUSA, email MoreArt@maaa.org or visit www.eusa.org.

About Mid-America Arts Alliance

Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) strengthens and supports artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout our region and beyond. We achieve this primarily through our national traveling exhibition programs, innovative leadership development, and strategic grant making. We are especially committed to enriching the cultural life of historically underserved communities by providing high quality, meaningful, and accessible arts and culture programs and services. We believe in more art for more people. Additional information about M-AAA is available at www.maaa.org.

Small Wonders: Insects in Focus is partially funded at the Stauth Memorial Museum by a grant from The Arthur and Cornelia Scroggins Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas.

We are expecting many groups for this exhibit, so please call in advance to schedule groups of 5 or more. For more information contact (620)846-2527. Business hours for the Stauth Memorial Museum, 111 N Aztec, Montezuma, KS are: Tue - Sat 9-12, 1-4:30. Closed Sundays, Mondays & all major holidays. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated to help with the costs to host this amazing exhibition. Check out our WEBSITE for information about this and other exciting events at the Stauth Memorial Museum at www.stauthmemorialmuseum.org.

Exhibitsusa®

