

Press Release

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For immediate release, please use any time until Saturday, May 14, 2022

High resolution images available upon request!



Don't Miss Leah Johnson: Prairie Visions at Stauth Museum

Montezuma, KS – There is finally have a Leah Johnson exhibit at the Stauth Museum! Leah Johnson: Prairie Visions will be on display in the Special Exhibitions Gallery until Saturday, May 14, 2022. Make plans to visit soon!

Leah Johnson was a self-taught painter from Montezuma who learned to paint to support her family after her husband passed away. She specialized in painting Western Kansas landscapes and the sod houses (or soddies) that dotted the area when she was a child. Leah created her own technique of mixing soils native to each homestead into her oil or acrylic paints to give each piece texture and a 3-dimensional appearance.

Her pieces gained popularity with people of this area, and with travelers passing through the area. She is known for painting canvases of homesteads, but each piece also contains her vivid interpretations of the Western Kansas sky. Johnson painted from memory, and considered herself a historian of sorts as she documented the places of her youth.

The Stauth Museum is honored to present this exhibition of Leah Johnson's works that showcase pieces throughout her career. The exhibit includes pieces owned by many people of the area, including her son Lynn Johnson of rural Copeland, and the Clawson family of Plains; who were avid collectors of Leah's works. Stauth Memorial Museum is also displaying a barnyard painted coffee pot from Geraldine Koehn's collection, and a soddy painting which was donated by the Shelden Family of Wichita.

The Sheldon family painting is on permanent display at the museum and is the anchor of what we hope to be a Leah Johnson Collection within the Stauth Museum. If you have a Leah Johnson piece that you would like to donate to grow our Leah Johnson Collection, please contact the museum at (620)846-2527, or stauthm@ucom.net.

For more information or schedule a tour call 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 always appreciated Check out our WEBSITE for information about this and other exciting events at the Stauth Memorial Museum at www.stauthmemorialmuseum.org. Our next exhibit will be May 24 – June 25 and will feature the photographic works of Mike Umscheid, resident of Dodge City.