

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Portraits of the Prairie* Exhibit and Programming at Loveland Museum/Gallery**

LOVELAND, CO *Portraits of the Prairie: Nebraska Landscapes that Inspired Willa Cather* by Richard Schilling will be on display from January 14 – April 15, 2012 at the Loveland Museum/Gallery. The exhibit features watercolor paintings and ink sketches by Richard Schilling, from his book *Portraits of the Prairie: The Land That Inspired Willa Cather*, published by the University of Nebraska Press. Sketches will include a display of sketchbooks and diaries that complement Schilling's effort to artistically render and preserve the remarkable sense of place in Cather's stories. There will be 10 cell phone stops in the exhibit. Recorded by Loveland poet Veronica Patterson, the cell phone stops will highlight Cather quotes that inspired some of the paintings.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, January 13 from 6-8 pm with music provided by Gil Garcia & a Touch of Jazz. There will be an artist talk, prior to the reception, at 5:30 pm.

Webster County, Nebraska, is often called "Catherland." The novelist Willa Cather spent her childhood there and found inspiration for her stories of European immigrants on the prairie. Richard Schilling's work transports the viewer to that land, to scenes that might have influenced Cather, but as they appear today. Schilling, with a deep appreciation for Cather, has the ability to imbue the landscape with the same poetic richness found in her writings. His art work brings this evocative land to life—beautiful depictions of a storied place.

Dr. Richard Schilling was born and raised in Nebraska and earned his bachelor's and doctorate of dental surgery degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Now retired from dentistry, Dr. Schilling is a lifelong artist. He has authored several articles and books about painting and sketching, including the book accompanying the *Portraits of the Prairie* exhibit. Schilling has exhibited in art shows in Nebraska, New York, Texas, and Northern Colorado and is a five-year participant in the Colorado Governor's Art Show. He has received the *Arts for the Parks Top One Hundred* award twice, in 1996 and 2004, a national recognition awarded by the National Park Academy of the Arts. Schilling lives in Loveland, CO.

The *Portraits of the Prairie* exhibition and programming is a partnership between the Loveland Museum/Gallery and Friends of the Loveland Public Library Foundation.

[Portraits of the Prairie: Programs](#)

Opening Reception

Friday, January 13, 6-8 pm

Loveland Museum/Gallery

Artist Talk at 5:30 pm. Music provided by Gil Garcia & a Touch of Jazz.

Anthology Book Company Reader's Circle

Wednesday, January 18, 6 pm

Anthology Book Company, 422 E 4th Street

Willa Cather Novel: *Death Comes For the Archbishop*
www.anthologybookcompany.com

Film: *My Ántonia*

Thursday, February 23, 7 pm

Rialto Theater Center, 228 E 4th Street

A film re-creation of Willa Cather's novel of life in rural Nebraska in the late 1890s.

Tickets: \$5

***Portraits of the Prairie* Book Signing**

Saturday, February 25, Noon to 4 pm

Barnes & Noble, 5835 Sky Pond Drive, Loveland

With Author Richard Schilling.

An Evening with Willa Cather

Friday, March 16, 7 pm

Rialto Theater Center, 228 E 4th Street

Chautauqua's Speakers Bureau re-enactor Lynne Swanson brings Willa Cather to life. Music by Gil Garcia & A Touch of Jazz.

Tickets: \$10 adult, \$7 student

Portraits of the Prairie: Art & Writing Classes

Prairies of the West

Friday, January 20, 1 pm – 4 pm

Loveland Museum/Gallery

For ages 18+

Paint a panoramic scene of the western prairie and historical buildings with pastels. All materials provided.

Instructor: Mary Giacomini

\$65 (\$52 Museum members)

Watercolor Landscapes

Thursday, February 23, 4 pm – 6 pm

Grades 4 – 8

Loveland Museum/Gallery

Drawing & painting seasons on the prairie will inspire fresh ideas to capture on watercolor paper. Instructor: Diane Ramsey

\$20 (\$16 Museum members)

Creatures of the Prairie

Thursdays, March 15 & 22, 4 pm – 6 pm

Grades 1- 5

Loveland Museum/Gallery

Clay and watercolor give depth to prairie creatures. Instructor: Diane Ramsey

\$30 (\$24 Museum members)

From Paintings into Words

Loveland Museum/Gallery- Saturday, January 28, 1 pm – 3 pm

Loveland Public Library- Saturday, March 10, 1 pm – 3 pm

For ages 18+

Learn about ekphrastic writing – poems and prose in response to visual art – then apply it to your own writing. Bring paper, writing implements, and memories of the land or other “places” (mountains, a saddle, a skating rink, a river bank?) that have helped shape your imagination.

These are two separate workshops. Instructor: Veronica Patterson

\$30 per class (\$24 Museum members)

Willa Cather & Writing Place

In this five-week class offered by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, students will consider Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia* and some shorter works and write about place in poetry and prose. For program information, please visit www.learn.colostate.edu/osher or call 970-491-7753.

Instructor: Veronica Patterson

Portraits of the Prairie: Gala Event

The Opera that Inspired Willa Cather

Gala Event at McCreery House

Saturday, March 24, 5-7 pm

Selections from *The Bohemian Girl* by Michael William Balfe, inspiration for Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*, will be performed by Loveland Opera Theatre. Reception with light hors d’oeuvres begins at 5 pm; performance at 6 pm.

Tickets: \$25 individual/\$40 couple, limited quantity, purchase in advance at the Museum.

IMAGE: Uncle George’s Windmill: Richard Schilling. Please do not crop or overwrite image.

Youth and Adult Class Registration Policy: Advance registration is required and payment is due at the time of registration. Classes that do not meet the minimum student requirement one week prior to their start date will be cancelled. Call 970-962-2410 or visit the Museum to register.

The Loveland Museum/Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursdays 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; Saturdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Sundays 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Closed Mondays.

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