

**NEWS RELEASE – April 26, 2007**

First Member Exhibit for the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## First Member Exhibit for the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography

Milford, IA -- An exhibit of fine art photography by members of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography will be on display at CR Gallery in Milford from May 23 to June 1 and the reception for this celebration of photography is being held on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-7pm – refreshments will be served. A variety of subject matter will be featured.

Dan Ruf has two of his most impressive photographic works on display in the exhibit. The majority of Ruf's images to date result from traveling the gravel roads around his home in Northwest Iowa near the city of Melvin. Ruf was appointed Director of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography in early April of this year. The members meet bi-monthly in Milford at CR Gallery.

Ruf's work was recently showcased at the Minnesota Center for Photography in Minneapolis and will be the subject of a one-man show at the Witter Gallery in Storm Lake in August of this year. Ruf's work has a sense of drama and demonstrate another way of seeing, capturing, and representing the rural Iowa landscape. His "Country Road" - panorama- measures 44 ½ "x 17 ¾" and is absolutely breathtaking.

Another well-known local photographer, Judy Hemphill, will also be featured in the exhibit. This Spencer resident's work almost comes alive before your eyes. Hemphill often attempts to engage viewers' other senses as well. In this show, the "breeze" image of sailboats on West Lake Okoboji offers the eye repetition in the leaning craft. Other impressions may include a brush of wind across a cheek, a breath of crisp fresh air, or the call of gulls. This image and others are available for sale at CR Gallery, Milford; Side Street Gallery, Arnolds Park; McGee Art and Framing, Peterson; Arts on Grand, Spencer; and Herden's North 40, Sibley.

Hemphill's photographic career began chronicling family and community activities then she moved into aerial, commercial, and art photography. Her photographs have been included in area open, invitational, and juried shows. Grain Journal, Biofuels Journal, Midwest Getaway, and other agriculture and travel publications have published aerial and ground shots. In 1995 the Clay County Fair became her first commercial endeavor. Photographing the world's greatest county fair is now highlight of every year.

Fostoria resident, Amelia Painter will feature a Minnesota sunrise photograph in the exhibit. Alive with dramatic color as the sun rises on Spirit Lake, Minnesota, the fine art image has captured the serenity of beauty and radiance of the rising sun.

For Jessica Rosenwinkel, a Ruthven resident, this exhibit will be the first to showcase her landscape and still life photography. Rosenwinkel is a returning student to the Iowa Lakes Community College this year. She graduated from ILCC in 2004 with A.S. in Graphic Design &

Technology. She is currently enrolled in the Journalism and Photography program at the college as she desires to follow her passion for photography.

Michael Houge will be showcasing landscapes from Iowa and Minnesota along with a fine art photograph of the ISU swans at Luvern Lake in Ames. Houge lives with wife Pam on an acreage north of Ruthven. He started taking his photography serious about a year ago. His passion is capturing the beauty of anything found outdoors in nature. Be sure you don't miss viewing his image titled "Foggy Footbridge" – a shot of the lower gar footbridge in Sepia.

Denison resident Bob Creasey will have a few of his landscapes and nature fine art prints in the exhibit. Creasey, a Humanities Scholar for Western Iowa Tech Community College, will also be serving as the Humanities Scholar for the Center's exhibit titled *Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes* scheduled to open at CR Gallery on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Creasey will moderate all the group discussions and gallery talks during the 8-day exhibit.

Creasey's photographic art has long been a favorite of CR Gallery patrons. His work captures the natural world in a unique and interesting manner. Creasey says, "Understanding something in the natural world gives me insight into human behavior and why people do what they do."

Spencer resident, Kelli Farrar, will also have work featured in the exhibit. According to Farrar, her intention as a photographic artist "is to notice the details, record the mundane as beautiful; refocus and freshen the perspective that allows the viewer to see with "new eyes" those things that may fade into the background of familiarity."

Farrar's work covers a broad range, from more traditional photographs that seek to faithfully convey the reality she sees, to bold graphic treatments with intense saturated colors and hard edges. Farrar is very comfortable with the idea of photo manipulation. She uses the powerful technology of digital imagery and editing to produce finished pieces of art that are a pleasure to look at and enjoy.

Spirit Lake's Lisa Bailey will also have work featured in the exhibit. Currently Bailey is the featured spotlight photographer at the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography and has four of her artistic photographic images on display. (Every quarter, in a special section of the Gallery, the "Members Spotlight" Exhibit showcases the work of an outstanding member. Bailey is the second recipient of this honor.)

Bailey's photographic career has been filled with personal accomplishments that include winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Wanda J. Skogerboe Juried Exhibition at the Lakes Art Center, 1<sup>st</sup> place and Best of Show at the All Iowa Fair in Cedar Rapids, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the photographic "Things" division at the Iowa State Fair, 1<sup>st</sup> place and Best of Show at more than one Arts on Grand photographic competitions, and judging for the Clay County Fair's new photographic competitions for the last two years. You'll not want to miss viewing this award-winning photographer's prints.

The exhibit will be free and open to the public. Membership at the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography is open to anyone in the region interested in photography as art. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for May 16, 2007 at CR Gallery, 912 Okoboji Avenue, Milford, Iowa, at 7pm. Contact Christine Richards at 712-228-4155 for additional information.

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