

## **NEWS RELEASE – August 13, 2007**

*Young Photographer's Work on Display in Exhibit*

**Contact: Christine Richards 712-338-4155**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Young Photographer's Work on Display in Exhibit  
Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes  
By Amelia Painter*

Royal, IA ~ The *Portraits of the Land: Northwest Iowa Landscapes* is a photographic exhibition featuring new photographic art by NW Iowa photographers that are all members of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography (NWICP). The juried exhibit will feature work from local professionals and serious amateurs that include one twelve year old from Royal, Lindsey Boetel.

The exhibit is free of charge and open to the public. The intent of this showing of photographic fine art is to feature the natural habitat and wildlife of Northwest Iowa as its focus. This exhibition will provide the public an opportunity to see the jewels of the Northwest Iowa ecosystems. The exhibit takes place at CR Gallery in Milford, August 23 through September 2, 2007.

Miss Boetel juried-in a brilliant image of a flowering Dianthus plant. There are over 300 Dianthus species and the genus is usually thought of as containing two broad groupings of plants – carnations and pinks. The fine art image on display is found in the Dianthus lusitanus pink group. While originally native to Europe and Asia, the USDA Web site shows the Dianthus lusitanus pink as naturally growing in one southwest Iowa county. In northwest Iowa it is a perennial that flowers in early spring. Boetel found several Dianthus plants flowering in the Fostoria Native Iowa Plants Garden and spent several days photographing them at different times of the day. The image on display in the exhibit was photographed at early dusk.

The young photographer has been fascinated with photography ever since her parents gave her a digital camera for Christmas. Her grandparents encourage her photographic eye by taking her and her 3-year old sister Mallory on photographic outings to local lakes, wetlands and parks.

Boetel says her favorite subjects to photograph are nature, animals and her friends. But it is clear that she likes to shoot all kinds of pictures — be it still life, action, sports, or nature. She seems

to take delight in exploring new sights and scenes, any evocative image makes her lift her camera. Her friends at the Spencer Taekwondo Club certainly know this to be true since she can often be found taking photographs from the sidelines as she documents the high kicks and board-breaking techniques used by her instructors and fellow students.

At 12, she is getting formal exposure to photography as a member of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography. In a recent workshop taught by photographer Kelli Farrar, Boetel was encouraged to make each new shot better than the last with the aid of different techniques like better light control, good composition and concentration on the subject. Farrar also instilled in the young photographer the notion of seeing abstract images in everyday life when Farrar pointed out how the light in the room was reflecting a rainbow of colors off a water glass.

During the exhibition days, all of the following programs will be presented, at no cost to the public:

- Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 9pm: **Photographer's Reception** and celebration. During this event, the public can get a sneak preview of the exhibition, meet the photographers and purchase an autographed copy of their favorite images appearing in the exhibition.
- Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to Noon: **Gallery Talk** lead by NWICP Director Dan Ruf and humanities scholar Robert C. Creasey will include discussions on the value of our natural world, appreciating it, and how our specific environment enriches life.
- Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm: **Photographing Animals in Nature**, a presentation by Stan Buman that will focus on photographing animals in the wild. Burman will also address the need for natural and human resources to advance environmental and social betterment of Northwest Iowa.

You can meet young Miss Boetel and view her work at the Photographer's Reception at CR Gallery, the home of the Northwest Iowa Center for Photography, located at 912 Okoboji Avenue (Hwy 71) in Milford. The exhibit and all its activities will be free and open to the public. Humanities Iowa has funded a partial grant in support of this exhibit. Contact Christine Richards at 712-228-4155 for additional information.

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