

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Vern Erickson returning to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center with his “Very Erickson” art exhibit

Washburn – Bismarck artist Vern Erickson returns to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center with his “Very Erickson” art exhibit beginning July 30.

For over four decades, Erickson has been bringing the history of the Upper Missouri region to life through an uncanny vision and a seemingly magical paintbrush. Vern’s artistic foundation always been about sharing his art with people and creating educational opportunities. That is certain to continue with this exhibit featuring a large number of new, never-before-seen works.

Born in Esmond, North Dakota, the self-taught Erickson was influenced by western artist Charles Russell and became a freelance artist in 1979. He has been featured in multiple exhibits at the Interpretive Center and has donated many of his works to its collection. The Center’s collection includes a 10-foot landscape painting created in 1972 for the ND Department of Transportation which is on permanent display in the Erickson Gallery where “Very Erickson” will be exhibited.

“Most of the art he will bring has never been exhibited before,” said Site Supervisor Kevin Kirkey. “As interpreters, we relate what is important about the Missouri River region, and Vern illustrates that. His work is an important part of North Dakota’s art legacy and we hope visitors will see his love and passion for all the places that are illustrated in his art.”

The exhibit is part of the Center’s ongoing efforts to bring the region art that illustrates sense of place on the Upper Great Plains. Also on exhibit at the same time will be “Dark Silver: A Collection of Black Glass Ambrotypes” by Bismarck wet plate photographer Shane Balkowitsch. Both exhibits are sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation.

For more information, contact Robert Hanna, interpretive coordinator, at (701) 462-8535 or rhanna@nd.gov.

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is located 40 miles north of Bismarck at the intersection of US 83 and ND 200A in Washburn.

More information about the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and its offerings can be found on its website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.