

AGRICULTURE



THIS PAINTING, which was created by Kelly Parks Snider, depicts a get-together of five Wisconsin farm women. The painting is part of Snider's "Dialogues with Silence" exhibit that opens Saturday at the Norfolk Arts Center. Snider, who lives in Madison, Wis., will also display her "Rural Women: Voice and Spirit" artwork.

Local arts center to open ag women-inspired show

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It's been said that it's not what you know, but who you know.

Thanks to family ties, the Norfolk Arts Center will soon be site of a multi-media/multi-medium exhibition that focuses on the lives and issues of Wisconsin farm women.

About two years ago, Bob and Helen Ann Cox of Norfolk traveled to Madison, Wis., to see the "Rural Women: Voice and Spirit" art exhibition created by her niece, Kelly Parks Snider. The Omaha native is relatively new to the art of painting.

On their return home, Mrs. Cox said she shared a brainstorm with her husband: Why

Norfolk. She spoke with Sue Burns, a local art instructor, who serves on the local arts center board. The board later gave its approval.

The Norfolk Art Center will host a gallery opening celebration with Snider from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, with the artist speaking at 11 a.m. The event is open to the public.

The exhibition also includes Snider's inaugural paintings, "Dialogues with Silence," inspired from estate sales. A photographic display by Susan Lawler, titled "Remains of the Faith," also opens Saturday.

Years ago, Snider said she became interested in rural women's lives through her role as an occupational therapist, assisting producers who had

Snider said she was "absolutely amazed" by the farm women she met while on their farms. But, too often, Snider said, the voice of a rural woman is often unheard and they lead rather unrecognized and sometimes undervalued lives.

Snider said her exhibition "is the culmination of exploring and interpreting many of the ideas expressed by 18 remarkable (Wisconsin) rural women." Snider added that she draws her inspiration "from the pure spirit, integrity and strength of women who farm."

Snider's exhibits, which are partially funded by the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts, will remain at the arts center