

Jane Booth "Blockbuster" Solo Show at Albrecht-Kemper Museum in St. Joseph

article and photos by Lisa Lala

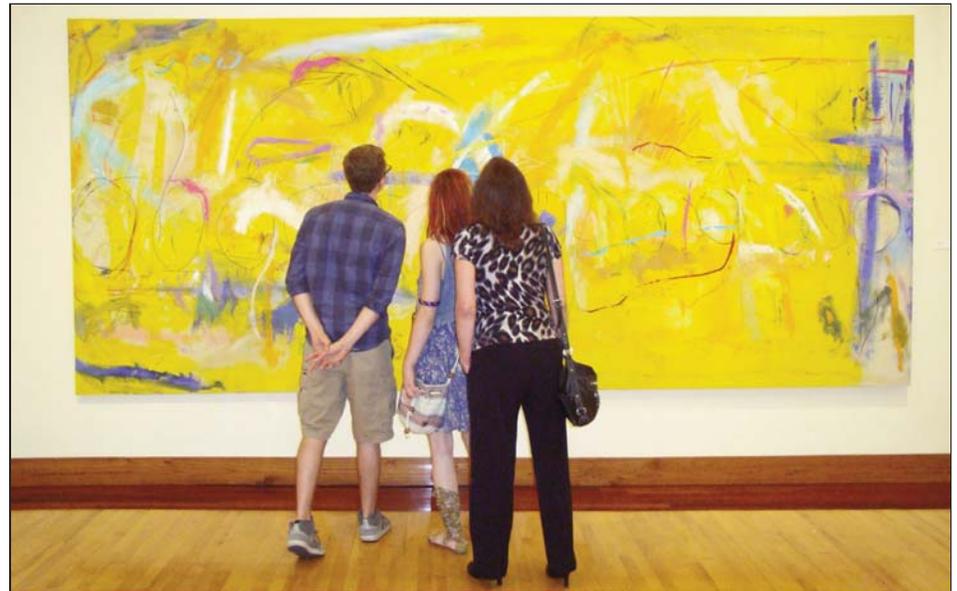
Road Trip! Lake daughter Jane Booth has a career-crowning museum show in St. Joseph. It will be up all summer, through September 2nd. Lake Lotawana is home to many impressive artists, and Jane Booth's extensive career as an artist is certainly part of that. Jane has had shows in galleries across the country and was featured last year in *Martha Stewart Magazine*. Jane's work is throughout all of the rotating areas on the main floor of the museum. For the show opening, not only was the parking lot full beyond capacity, but the field behind the lot was also full. Museum director, Terry Oldham, said on opening night: "This is a blockbuster show."

Among the many paintings in this extensive survey of her work are some of the pieces from her recent Lake Lotawana Series. These gorgeous paintings, currently honored in the museum, should eventually find a home in one of our lake's fantastic homes, don't you think? A girl with a lot of Lake Lotawana in her heart and memories. The Booth family has homes at Y1 and Y3, formerly homes of their late parents, Jack Booth and Ann Booth Wilson.

At the celebratory dinner afterwards, Jane told a very funny story about Ray Kuntz and a catfish in a cove barrel.... from the 70's! I guess almost no one believed Ray or Jane until it came out in

the *Lake Lotawana News*... Jane writes: "One summer afternoon in maybe 1987, I was lounging on the dock at my parents' cabin at Y3. There was a lot of activity going on at the Kuntz's dock--a young boy there with a snorkel and mask, diving down, coming up, over and over and over, setting soda and beer cans found on the bottom, all along the plank, his boat tied up to a dock cable. Eventually, his masked face popped up right by our dock. He told me he was Frank's grandson, Raymond, and explained that he was pulling cans off the bottom, cracking them open and finding crawdads that had swum into the cans when they were smaller and had grown too large to get out. He dove some more, popped over again a few times, filling in the details gradually, between dives. He had a theory that if he pulled a 55 gallon drum out of the lake, he may find a fish in it that had swum in when it was small...."

Quite a bit later, he popped up and mentioned that we, in fact, had a 55 gallon drum right by our dock! He wondered if he could pull it up and have a look. I agreed and watched him disappear, up and down a few times, until he blasted back out of the water spluttering, his eyes HUGE, he was shouting as he came out of the water, 'THERE'S A PAIR OF 18" LIPS IN THERE!!!!!!' I think it



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was the last thing I heard him say, as he went mute shortly after, during the events that followed. He ran up and got Frank, who came down and helped haul the barrel out onto the sea wall, and as the water came rushing out of the barrel, it became apparent that there was a large tail hanging from a rusted out gap in the barrel. As they rolled the barrel up on the lawn, the barrel began to fall apart, and out spilled two large catfish! I can't remember if they were 25 pounds together, or if one was 25 lbs. Each fish had been facing a different direction, no whiskers and skinned down fins on their sides that had been towards the barrel. The rusty hole was not much bigger than an inch or two high, so they must have swum in when they were pretty small fish. It had to have been years since they'd even seen one another's faces.

Ray was rendered speechless as he and his grandfather loaded the fish into the bottom of Ray's aluminum outboard boat, and Ray headed across the lake with his grand prizes.

As for trip planning, Weston is on the way to or from St. Joseph, so be SURE to make reservations at The Vineyards restaurant in Weston. It is

fantastic. That will round out your trip into a real vacation outing and break up the drive. The Vineyards is open Thursday - Sunday. www.thevineyardsrestaurant.com

The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art is open Tuesday-Friday from 10am-4pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm. www.albrecht-kemper.org

Jane is represented by Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art in the Crossroads Arts District in Kansas City. Work can also be viewed at JaneBooth.com



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John, Jane, and Jan Booth celebrate Jane's "blockbuster" show.



Telling the catfish story.... This is the part where Ray Kuntz looked inside the small hole in the rusted cove barrel...Jane Booth on left and her partner, Bob, Jan Booth in the middle and John Booth on the right.