



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Celebrate Life on the Farm at the Neville's *Fertile Ground: Art and Agriculture* Exhibit**

Green Bay, WI—August 9, 2012— Celebrate life down on the farm at the Neville's new exhibit- *Fertile Ground: Art and Agriculture* on display August 11, 2012 through December 2, 2012. This small exhibit offers a blend of artworks and photographs on farm life dating from about 1900 to the present. Two Wisconsin artists, Dick Hazaert and Randall Berndt, are featured in this exhibit as are a variety of media- from oil and hand-colored etching to acrylic and wood engraving.

Although agriculture is big business in Wisconsin, it is also much more. Farming is a culture, a way of life, and an iconic symbol that brands our state.

Throughout art history, farming and farmers have been fertile ground for artists. Sometimes artists glorified rural life by depicting farmers as heroes of the soil; sometimes they emphasized the hardships of working the fields. Sometimes farmers themselves are the artists, offering the truest depictions of their lives. Their painted, drawn, or sculpted landscapes, portraits, homesteads, animals, crops, and even farm machinery are created with honesty, heartfelt insight, and skill.

*Fertile Ground: Art and Agriculture* is part of the Brown County Federation of History Museums 2012 programs which explore the historical, cultural and social nature of agriculture in America's Dairy land. For more information, visit [bcfhm.org](http://bcfhm.org).

\*Attachment: *Stacking Grain* by Stanley Abstetar. Oil, 1939. From the Neville's permanent collection. Sheboygan native Stanley Abstetar was working in the Arts Progress Administration (WPA) when this painting was made in 1939. For short time afterwards, he was assistant supervisor at the Milwaukee Public Museum and worked for the Wisconsin Visual Aids Program. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942, and was commissioned as an ensign in 1944. He served on many different ships until he retired in 1973.

Editorial expansion of story available upon request.

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