

JUROR'S STATEMENT

It is a privilege to have juried *Art on the Plains 2002*. I welcome the opportunity to jury exhibitions in communities outside my everyday professional experience precisely because the process introduces me to new work and artists, expanding my perspective and refreshing my vision.

From 223 slides I selected 51 works to be included in the exhibition. In some cases I chose two works by the same artist, because they were simply too good to pass up. I singled out works demonstrating the greatest technical skill and mastery of materials and targeted uniqueness and/or distinctiveness of artistic concept, choosing works that resonate individually and most convincingly stimulate imagination and thought. Within a broad array of works in *Art on the Plains 2002* I have recognized skills, techniques, and mannerisms that are consistent with artmaking around the country. Not surprisingly, many of the works on some level deal with the natural environment, centering on the power of the landscape and the role it plays in everyday life and in one's consciousness. What I discovered in these works are refreshingly varied, inventive, and individual approaches to the subject.

I want to thank my gracious and efficient colleagues at the Plains Art Museum for the invitation to come to Fargo and participate in this important cultural tradition. Most important, I sincerely thank each of the 108 artists who submitted work to be considered for this exhibition. It is their unique vision and commitment that drive this cultural enterprise.

Lucinda Barnes

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Karen Gustafson, *Black Dog Preserve #2*, 2001
watercolor