Children’s book exhibit welcomes families to view, read, draw

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Families and children are invited to explore their artistic skills at a children’s book illustrations exhibit currently on display at the South Dakota Art Museum.

The 40-piece exhibit, “The Original Art: Celebrating the Fine Art of Children’s Book Illustrations,” opened Sept. 3 and will be on display through Jan. 5.

Guild members will host book readings every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. until the exhibit closes in January. Check www.SouthDakotaArtMuseum.com for the schedule.

Aside from the unique children’s book illustrations, reading and writing stations for children complete the exhibit. Geared toward children 12-and-under, the exhibit offers small, blank books for children to practice writing and drawing.

Each week, 10 children’s books featuring the art in the exhibit will also be out to read.

“We are really excited to have this national exhibit here in Brookings,” said Stacy Buehner, marketing and development at the art museum. “We are seeing more families coming in just for this exhibit. A lot people don’t realize that the art museum is a great place for kids to explore, learn and be exposed to art and culture.”

The exhibit is different because none of the works are for sale. All the original artwork will be returned to the artists after the rotation is complete.

Exhibit pieces differ from other children’s book illustrations in that they are intricately detailed, original pieces from the illustrators.

“The Conductor” by Laetitia Davernay is a children’s book featured in the exhibit that uses only pictures to tell the story, no words.

Pencil on paper pieces, painting on wood, and art combining both digital works and hand-drawn pieces, make up the child-focused exhibit.

“It’s a fantastic survey of 40 of the best children’s books published within the last couple of years. This is a prestigious juried competition, so the quality of the works on display can’t be beat,” said Jodi Lundgren, curator and coordinator of exhibitions at the art museum. “It’s really amazing to see what children’s book illustrators are creating today. I want a copy of each of the books for my own kids.”
“The Original Art” is a national, annual juried exhibition created to showcase illustrations from the year’s best children’s books published in the U.S.

For the public, it is a chance to appreciate the enormous range of creativity in children’s books and to see the printed pages alongside the original paintings, drawings, prints and collages they represent.

A variety of the children’s books are available for purchase in the South Dakota Art Museum store.

The South Dakota Art Museum is located at the junction of Medary Avenue and Harvey Dunn Street, 936 Medary Ave., for GPS users, on the west side of the SDSU campus.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

More information is available by calling 605-688-5423 or visiting www.southdakotaartmuseum.com.

About South Dakota Art Museum
Since 1970, the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings has been a place for people around the world to enjoy the artistic legacy of South Dakota in all its diversity. Rotating exhibits feature Harvey Dunn, Native American art, Marghab Linens and Paul Goble; as well as exhibits curated from regional, national and international artists. The Museum has more than 7,000 objects in its collection including paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture, textiles, and ceramics. The Museum Store features jewelry, pottery and original works of art by local and regional artists in addition to books on Native American art and South Dakota history and culture. To learn more, visit www.SouthDakotaArtMuseum.com, call 605-688-5423 and follow the Museum on Facebook and Twitter.