

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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SPECIAL EXHIBIT OF DONATED ART COLLECTION
OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 23 AT OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

JUNE 15, 2018 -- A private art collection combining locally focused creations by renowned professionals and lesser-known amateurs, recently donated to Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, will be introduced in a special main-floor exhibit that opens for free public viewing at 11am on Saturday, June 23, at the Old School House, 130 Center Street in Douglas. The new exhibit will remain through November 11, open during regular OSH visitor hours of 11am to 3pm Wednesday-Saturday through Labor Day, and then Thursday-Saturday after that.

Titled "Keeping an Eye on History", this exhibit showcases 27 works from the personal collections of longtime SDHC volunteers Ken Carls and Jim Schmiechen. Featured among the pieces, most of which depict historical scenes of local landmarks and viewsheds, will be a few principal works included as loans for this exhibit. Highlighting these is an unusually large autumn dune scene by noted artist Carl Hoerman, which Ken rescued from a garage sale more than a decade ago in bad condition, and had professionally restored.

Also prominent in the exhibit are works by deceased notables Elsa Ulbricht, Robert von Neuman, and Saugatuck-native Sylvia Randolph, plus photographs by Vicky Stull, whose historical images provided many illustrations for the History Center's 2006 book *Raising The Roof...A History of the Buildings and Architecture in the Saugatuck and Douglas Area*.

According to SDHC Executive Director Nathan Nietering, "the intent of this gift was to preserve these impressive works in the community that inspired them, where they can be studied and enjoyed. The goal of our exhibit is to share them immediately with the public at large, and to challenge others to make their own gifts of significant artwork, or donations supporting proper care for the History Center's growing art collection to assure that it will be maintained long into the future."

"If this challenge achieves our goal of inspiring more donations of significant works and maintenance funds," Nietering adds, "Ken and Jim have proposed to gift their loaned pieces as permanent additions to the History Center's collection as well."

Carls, a graphic designer, and Schmiechen, an architectural historian -- both retired educators in their fields and former SDHC board members -- have, for more than a decade, been key figures if not driving forces behind History Center's award-winning Museum exhibitions and historical publications.

Their private-collection exhibit supplements the standing art exhibit in the OSH second-floor gallery, which periodically rotates selections from the History Center's collection of nearly 250 pieces.

As a volunteer-based, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization with membership open to all, SDHC welcomes new members who have an interest in local history or just want to better connect with the unique cultural heritage of the area. Membership activities are enjoyed by long-time and seasonal residents, tourists, and individuals who have recently joined the greater Saugatuck-Douglas community.

For more information about SDHC, its Pump House Museum, its Old School House, its planned activities, and its many volunteer opportunities, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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SDHC Collection Manager Ken Kutzel and Research & Program Assistant Katelyn Bosch, summer intern recently-graduated from from West Virginia University, hang 1948 Saugatuck riverfront "Fishing Tugs" painting as part of the Keeping an Eye on History exhibit at the Old School House.