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NDCA announces the Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains exhibit at the SHSND

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) and the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) features the exhibit Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains in the North Dakota Artists Hall at the Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, ND. The exhibit opened January 2018, and will be on display for one year. The Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Sundogs and Sunflowers exhibit is based on the Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains book, a 352 page, coffee-table-size, full color, hardcover volume featuring more than a thousand examples of folklore and folk art, as well as more than three hundred images. Most of the material comes from North Dakota with every single one of the state’s fifty-three counties represented. Traditions from the prairies of South Dakota, western Minnesota, eastern Montana, northeastern Wyoming, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan also are included.

The material covers ghost stories and other strange tales, legends, blizzard stories, weatherlore, proverbs, folk expressions and folk speech, folk beliefs, folk medicine, holiday celebrations, hunting, fishing and trapping traditions, and folk art. Bearwalkers, Bigfoot, haunted houses, the blizzard of ’66, the floods of ’97 and ‘09, sundogs, rodeos, jokes, antler-carving, sunflower pie, decorative Easter eggs, methods to foretell the weather using onions, American Indian flutes, and so much more can be found in this publication.

NDCA produced this exhibit, which consists of full-color pictures (samples from chapters in the book with text and images) augmented with folk art pieces such as Norwegian Hardanger fiddles and needlework, ice spearfishing decoys, duck decoys, Ojibway beaded “octopus” bag, Russian beadwork on velvet, Armenian brass repoussé, Hidatsu porcupine quillwork, and elk antler scrimshaw work.

*Images are available upon request.*
The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.