

## Explore Barada Hills through paintings, poems - Omaha World-Herald: Web Edition Articles (NE) - May 4, 2017

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THE YARE roads, some of them dirt, that wind their way to nowhere, with "just room enough to turn the car." They are homes with nicknames like the "cow house" or the "cat house." They are tracts of land that symbolize the American Dream "bordered by hundred foot tall cottonwoods" and "surrounded by three hundred acres that somebody else farms." Then there are graveyards, their headstones weathered and askew, that "whisper about the past and the future."

The subjects are married to poignant words in the exhibition "The Barada Hills of Nebraska," which opens Friday at **Gallery 1516**. It pairs watercolors by John Frederick Lokke with poems by Jan Chism Wright to provide insight into this small piece of Nebraska that extends along the Missouri River from Winnebago just north of Rulo to the Little Nemaha River. Pronounced "Bear-a-dah," the hills are filled with lore of a French count who married a Native American princess, the explorers — Lewis and Clark — who chronicled its geography and a German prince who sought to capture its beauty with the aid of an artist. And, to further heighten the landscape's mythology, they were named for a man who was captured as a boy by the Lakota and ransomed for the price of two ponies.

For the artist and poet who take the hills as their inspiration, though, they are so much more. They are worlds unto themselves. Lokke describes them as "the end of the earth," both a destination and destiny. Chism sees the land, with its undulating curves and rocky roads, as seductive and exhilarating.

"The Barada Hills of Nebraska" runs through June 25 at **Gallery 1516**, 1516 Leavenworth St. An opening reception takes place 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday. For more information: [gallery1516.org](http://gallery1516.org) or 402-3051510.