



## OF THE BIRD

### new paintings by Carol Ronin Thompson

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For additional information contact: *Chad Dolezal, Communications Manager, 402.595.2122, [chad.dolezal@nebraska.gov](mailto:chad.dolezal@nebraska.gov)*

**Exhibition dates: June 11 – August 2, 2019**

**Opening reception: Friday, June 21, 5 - 7pm**

Public hours: Monday-Friday 8 - 5pm

Fred Simon Gallery at the Nebraska Arts Council, 1004 Farnam St, Plaza Level, Omaha NE

(Omaha, Nebraska) – The Nebraska Arts Council will host a reception for *Of the Bird*, including new paintings by Carol Thompson, on Friday, June 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Fred Simon Gallery. The exhibition will be on display from June 11 through August 2, 2019.



#### **OF THE BIRD | Artist Statement**

Nests are the subject of this exhibition. My interest in birds began as a child, too young to cross the street, gathering feathers on my block in Fremont, Nebraska. I marveled at the beauty and colors of the feathers and thought about the miracle of flight.

As an adult, I volunteered with the North American Nest Survey and helped band birds at the Pioneer Park Nature Center west of Lincoln. My husband, Art, and I were the first people to keep the Center open in the evening. While there, we would watch the birds and hunt for nests. We have fed birds and collected nests at our home for forty years.

My interest in birds required more research. In 1990, I went to Cedar Point Field Station below Lake McConaughy to study ornithology with Paul Johnsgard. In 1963, I took a zoology course from him and in the 80's, he lead a trip to view Sandhill Cranes that I organized.

Painting images of nests delight me, probably because for a brief time, I feel a greater affinity with the bird. When I paint a nest, I think about the bird and how he (she?) decided which stick, leaf, piece of thread or blade of grass would start the nest.

#### **About the artist:**

Carol grew up in Fremont, Nebraska and received her BA and MFA from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She spends her days in her country home studio, where she creates still life paintings from direct observation - flowers and natural objects from her garden and collected bottles. Carol regularly exhibits her paintings throughout Nebraska.

#### **About the Nebraska Arts Council**

The Nebraska Arts Council (NAC), a state agency, provides numerous grants, services and special initiatives that help sustain and promote the arts throughout Nebraska. NAC is supported by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Nebraska Legislature and National Endowment for the Arts.

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