

Bridging Cultures: Scandinavian and Ojibwe Traditions in Birch Bark



Bridging Cultures: Scandinavian and Ojibwe Traditions in Birch Bark includes preserved artifacts from the American Swedish Institute and Plains Art Museum as well as recent works by contemporary birch bark artists John Zasada and Paula White. The exhibit runs through Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010 and is located in the level-3 hall case. In addition to the exhibit, *Bridging Cultures* also had workshops at the Hjemkomst Center, including a presentation on integrating the comparison of cultural traditions in

birch bark into art education as well as a workshop for all ages on birch bark craft projects. A Teachers Workshop was held to create bridges between cultures by reintroducing Ojibwe and Scandinavian traditional birch bark craft knowledge into school and community programs in Minnesota. The workshop was intended to help classroom teachers and art educators focus on how to meet new MN-legislated requirements that schools “address the cultural and historical contexts of art objects, specifically including those of the Minnesota American Indians.” Dr. Faith Clover, U. of Minnesota, and Dr. Kelly Hrenko, U of Southern Maine, and MN birch bark artists John Zasada and Paula White were all presenters for this workshop.

Co-sponsored by the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (HCSCC), Plains Art Museum, American Swedish Institute, Art Educators of Minnesota, and the Concordia College Department of Education.

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