

Celebrate. Remember.

The Making of the Dakota Hospital Memorial
Assembly Sculpture
Documentary Premiere



Thursday, April 26, 2018

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The Making of the Dakota Hospital Memorial
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Documentary Premiere

5:30 pm - Social with light hors d'oeuvres*

Music provided by Sadie Potter,
USD music student, Sanford Arts Intern
*Provided by SVMC Nutrition Services Department

6:00 pm - Welcome

Linda Kogel, President,
Dakota Hospital Foundation

Documentary Premiere

6:30 pm - Discussion & Q&A

Todd Mechling, Videographer
Christopher A. Meyer, Artist
Evelyn Schlenker, Historian
Ari Albright, Facilitator

7:00 pm - Thank You

Tim Tracy, Senior Director,
Sanford Vermillion Medical Center

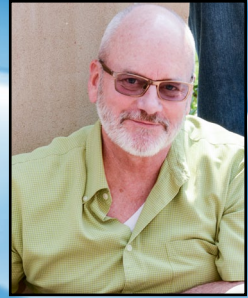
Please take this opportunity to view *Assembly*
at the main entrance.

SANFORD
Vermillion



Todd Mechling

Mechling, an alumnus of University of South Dakota, has worked in the film/video production industry for over three decades. His production experience is extensive and wide-ranging: news, commercials, motion pictures, documentaries, children's programs, concerts, political campaigns, corporate and industrial communications, television magazines, stage adaptations.



After winning numerous directing awards for his dramas, documentaries and children's programs in the public television sector, Mechling formed his own production company - Cool Hand Production - in 1993. His clients have ranged from regional advertising agencies to multinational corporations and international production companies.

He returned to his alma mater as an instructor in the Media and Journalism Department in 2004. Mechling teaches Video Production, Advanced Field Production, and Directing for Video and Films, as well as advising KYOT-TV (the student-run television station) and Coyote Creative (a student-run production house).

"Within the course of my career there have been very few production roles that I haven't performed at one time or another. I've been a grip, a gaffer, a videographer, an editor, a director of photography, a lighting director, a location scout, a production manager, a producer, a director, and an executive producer.

I think that my students appreciate the fact that when I'm showing them how to plan a production or set-up a shot or light a scene or mic an interview, I'm drawing upon thirty-plus years of experience doing those very things. I'm sharing with them a lifetime of work in the film and video production trenches. And - as Cool Hand Production - I still climb into those trenches during the summer months. So, it's not like I'm teaching my students what production was like 'back in the day.' I'm training them for the current market. It's very rewarding to see a good number of my former students now out working in the marketplace...and excelling there."

Christopher A. Meyer

Christopher A. Meyer is a native South Dakotan and Associate Professor of Sculpture at his alma mater the University of South Dakota where he received his B.F.A. visual art degree emphasizing in sculpture. Meyer earned his M.F.A. in visual art emphasizing in sculpture graduating Suma Cum Laudi in December of 2003 from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana.



Meyer's work ranges from non-objective to representational sculptural objects, sculptural installations and performance work often times focusing on the interaction between the viewer and the work. Christopher's studio practice tends to emphasize material and process and is made from a large variety of materials including carved or fabricated wood, steel, fibers, cast metals, mixed media or "whatever the piece needs to be." Or in the case of *Assembly*, hands molded from over 150 Vermillion community members. Recently, he has begun a deeper investment in cast iron, building a furnace and equipment necessary to cast the material and hosting an annual iron pour at his home studio in rural South Dakota called the "Little Pour on the Prairie" each spring. Meyer is also on the Board of Directors for the Western Cast Iron Art Alliance since March 2016.

Meyer has exhibited in over 100 regional and national exhibitions since joining the University of South Dakota in 2006. Some of Meyer's selected exhibitions include: The Bemis Contemporary Art Center's 2012 Regional Juried Exhibition in Omaha, Nebraska; The Kinsey Institute's 2013 International Juried Art Exhibition in Bloomington, Indiana; National Iron, a juried professional exhibition associated with the 2014 Western Cast Iron Art Alliance Conference in Laramie, Wyoming where his work received "Best of Show;" and in 2015 fired: Iron a national juried exhibition part of a series of three exhibitions of medias requiring fire in their process at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada, Colorado. His work was also published in the winter 2016 vol. 31 of *Studio Visit*, an international juried publication of all medias of Fine Art by the Open Studio Press of Boston, Massachusetts. This past May, he had a solo exhibition of his installation and cast iron sculpture at Frontier Space, an alternative non-profit gallery space in Missoula, Montana.

Meyer works and lives with his family consisting of his wife, two children, two dogs and way too many cats on an acreage full of materials somewhere northwest of Vermillion, South Dakota.

Evelyn Schlenker

Evelyn Schlenker is a Professor Emeritus having been a faculty member at the University of South Dakota Medical School for over 36 years. She also has a deep interest in the history of Clay County and wrote four books. Two documented the unique and beautiful stained glass windows at the old St. Agnes Church (now the Washington Street Arts Center) in Vermillion, and windows in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Wakonda. Both churches were built in the early part of the twentieth century. Having an interest in medicine and historical preservation, she wrote a book about Stansbury's houses. Dr. Eugene Stansbury practiced medicine in Vermillion in the first half of the 20th century, taught in the medical school, and was a great supporter of the Dakota Hospital, Vermillion's first community hospital. The fourth book that Schlenker wrote documents houses that served as hospitals prior to the construction of the Dakota Hospital, the challenge the Dakota Hospital Association faced and overcame to build and maintain the hospital, and lastly the development of the healthcare campus in Vermillion. Schlenker is on the board and serves as secretary of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, the Vermillion Community Theater, Friends of the W. H. Over Museum (celebrating its 135th year), and the Clay County Historical Preservation Commission.



I marvel at the endurance, patience and good will of the hundreds of individuals who made this project come to life. It is a testament to our commitment to serve each other - with our strength, our vulnerability, our resilience. Art can give us a unique way to celebrate our community and give thanks to the stewards of our health and wellness, across the whole life spectrum.

Thank you,
Ari Albright, Project Manager

Over two years, 150 community members came together with a team of artists, to share their memories and lend a hand in making this memorial sculpture to honor Dakota Hospital's 85 years of service.

James Abbott
Ari Albright
Cy Albright
Max Andersen
Courtney Anderson
Susan Anderson, MD
Judy Andre Ryan
Nickolas Baltz
Alice Barnes
Cindy Benzel
Jeff Berens
JoAnne Beringer
Ken Beringer
Craig Bliss
Gayle Bliss
Darlene Bottolfson
Diane Brown
Tom Brown*
Barb Campbell
Mike Carlson
Cynthia Chaney
Julia Chaney
Mike (Martin) Chaney
Sarah Cherrington
Dan Christopherson
Deanie Christopherson
Caitlin Collier
Kelsey Collier-Wise
Margaret Crew
Barb Danielson
William Dendinger, MD
Amanda Dickenson
Sandy Dickenson
Ardiss Dwyer
Mary Edelen
Dick Ellis
Amy Fill
Nila Fostvedt
Rebecca Froehlich

Mark Froke
Deb Gapp
John Gors
Marilyn Gors
Bob Gregoire
Tim Hannahs
Maryln Harnois
Cora Heimstra Lane
Doris Heine
Mary Jane Heine
Jaqueline Hendry
David Herbster
Kelly Herbster
Ruth Hesla*
Michelle Hinseth
Shélan Hinseth
Terri Horner
Andy Howe
Rhonda Howe
Gene Iverson
Randy Jarvis
Jeanne Jepsen
Betty Johnson
Jerry Johnson
Maxine Johnson
Fern Kaufman
James Kelly
Rebecca Kelly
Lisa Ketcham
Cory Knedler
Esther Knutson
Linda L. Kogel
Matthew Krell, MD
Barb Kronaizl
Lela Kruse
Marion Kryger*
Erma Larson
Carol Lavin
Matt Lavin

Sandy Lavin
Tom Lavin
David Lethcoe
David Lias
Val Lubben
LaKayah Lucas
Lauren Lucas
Marcy Lund
Gene Lunn
Betty Lynn
Raymond Lynn*
Mary Jane Malthesen
Kathy Manning
Krishna Mastel
Liam Mechling
Michele Mechling
Owen Mechling
Todd Mechling
Mary C. Merrigan
Christopher A. Meyer
Eleanor Meyer
Eli Meyer
Steve Miller
Roy Mortinsen, MD
Vivian (Vi) Mount
Jill Munger
Kevin Myron
Phyllis Noble*
Rennae O'Connor
Mary Jo Olson, MD
Luann Ouellette
Marie Ouellette
Dottie Paulson
John Paulson
Robert Post
John E. (Jack) Powell
Kay Powell
Wess Pravecek
Paul Preister
John Prescott
Katherine Price
Barbara Reelfs
Curt Robinson

Art Rusch
Donna Schafer
Jerry Schafer*
Margie Schissel
Madeline Schmitt
Beckett Smith
Donna Sommervold
Tom Sorenson
Cameron Stalheim
Glennis Stewart
Judy Sullivan
Lorraine Swee
Chuck Taggart
Joanne Tieman
Justin Tobin
Kaitlin Tracy
Tim Tracy
TJ Tracy
Virginia Tracy
Susan Tuve
Adrian C. Ulvog*
Alfred D. Ulvog, Jr.
Tori Waage
Vicki Walker, MD
Marvin Walz
Steve Ward
Kelly Watson
Bill Willroth, III
Jim Wilson
Patrick Wingen
James Wirth*
Charles Yelverton, MD
Barb Yutrzenka
Jerry Yutrzenka
Ashley Zimmer
Joyce Zimmer

*Deceased

