EXHIBIT

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The second photographer is

Horace Poolaw, a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma, who died in 1984. Poolaw's work depicts his family and friends in their

family and friends in their daily lives in Oklahoma during a transitional period of assimilation from the 1930s through the 1950s.

Erazmus worked directly with his family in securing prints for the exhibition.

"The family was very welcoming, and wanted to participate in the show with these pictures that have never come to South Dakota to my knowledge," she said. "It's a really rich opportunity to see the Poolaw work in person for the first time."

The third photographer is Zig Jackson of the Manan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes.

"Zig's work is really a counter-thesis to Edward Curtis' work," Erazmus said. "He understands how Curtis' photographs in particular have been used to develop and maintain stereotypes of American Indians, and he deconstructs that with his photography, but also shares a playful mocking element that you see in Horace Poolaw's photography."

Erazmus said it's not uncommon to hear visitors giggling at certain points of the exhibition, particularly around Jackson's work.

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"(Picturing Native) starts
off kind of somber and sad,
and these photogravures by
Curtis are very beautiful, but
he depicts them as a defeated
race," she said. "You don't see a
lot of joy, and you don't really
know what the people in the
photographs thought about it,
because he was treating them
as 'others' and photographing
them through a colonial lens.
"So you start to see

"So, you start to see through the exhibit that there is an empowerment that happens when indigenous groups pick up a camera and take their own images and form their own identifies through that," she said.

In addition to the photographs themselves, "Picturing Native" will feature two lectures from Jackson and Linda Poolaw, daughter of Horace Poolaw, along with a reception at the Day Gallery from 5-7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan 25.

Jackson will discuss contemporary photography at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, while Poolaw will discuss her father's work at 3 p.m. Jan. 25.

Erzamus said the lectures should be both informative and entertaining.

"(Jackson) is both an insider and an outsider," she said. "He is an American Indian, but he also goes to other reservations, he goes to other tribal ceremonies, and so he will kind of oscillate between those two positions. He notes that that's always really hard. It's very difficult, because you don't want to make the mistakes that Edward Curtis made. You don't want to pretend that you aren't the subjective observer, and that everything is from your point of view.

Linda Poolaw is "an amazing storyteller," Erazmus said.

said.

"She can talk about every single photograph taken, because these are of her family members. She knew these people personally. She has become in her own right an excellent scholar and lecturer, and can talk about Kiowa life that her father depicted during this time of transition and assimilation.

"I've come to understand that any time you show work by Horace Poolaw, the family will be there," Erazmus said. "They believe in his legacy, and they want to promote that. I think her presentation will be really informative and touching, and very personal."

Although "Picturing
Native" has only been open a
short time, it already has been
visited by a high school group,
and Erazmus said she has
heard "a lot of positive

comments."

"I think the gallery looks just a little bit different than if we had contemporary installation art shows. I love those, (but) this is much more of a museum kind of exhibition, and there's a lot of didactic information to go along with the image. We hope that it's a lot more

informational and

educational, and not just, 'Hey, this looks cool.'

"We do want you to walk away thinking about how photography has played a positive and a damaging role in native identity. I think people will get that when they come out of the show," she

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on weekends by appointment. University Art Galleries will be closed Jan. 1, 2012

For more information, email Erazmus at Alison. Erazmus@usd.edu, or call (605) 677-3177.



CHRISTMAS BOXES PROJECT

On Sunday, Dec. 16, community members gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church to finish the Christmas Boxes Project, in which food was collected and given to needy people in the community. Thirty volunteers helped to fill 92 boxes with food and distribute them around Vermillion. Besides members of the community, the effort was supported by the Vermillion Lions Club, Clay County Thrivent Board, Civic Council, Vermillion Rotary Club, Jolley and Austin schools. This marks the 33rd year this annual event has taken place.

(Photo by Kent Osborne)



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