

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release, Wednesday, July 31, 2013*

*For more information, contact Cross Ranch State Park 701-794-3731*

### **Artist in Residence at Cross Ranch State Park**

North Dakota artist Karen Bakke, well known for her graphic design and painting, is featured at Cross Ranch State Park Aug. 11-18, as one of the participants in the Artist in Residency Program sponsored by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Bakke will draw inspiration from the park and incorporate it into her art. She is putting on an interactive presentation in addition to a hands-on workshop on Saturday, Aug. 17. At 10:30 a.m., Karen will be at River Peoples Visitor Center to entertain, excite and motivate participants by doing sensory exercises to stimulate the brain's right side, enhancing problem solving and creativity! At 3 p.m., park visitors can meet at the River Peoples Visitor Center to explore basic painting techniques and design their own outdoor work of art. Both events are open to the public with art materials provided and funded by the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The only cost is the state park entrance fee..

Bakke has been a professional artist for 37 years, 19 of it in graphic design and for the past 18 years her focus has been fine art in oil, acrylic and watercolor. Commissioned work accounts for approximately 85 percent of her art produced. Being proficient in a variety of mediums and subject matter allows her to accommodate any project. She's worked on large murals, painting in hundreds of locations including churches, schools, museums, hospitals, daycares, retail stores and restaurants. Bakke resides in Fargo and is an active member of the Fargo Moorhead Visual Arts, Red River Watercolor Society, Portrait Society of America and The Arts Partnership in addition to her church and community.

Artists have played an important role in the history of North Dakota's state parks, assisting with defining the value of protecting natural resources, whether they are cultural, natural or recreational. It is the aim of the Artist in Residency Program that the experiences and art generated through this partnership allows the public to become stewards with a deeper appreciation of art inspired by the state parks of North Dakota.

All of North Dakota's state parks have hosted an artist since the program's inception. Visitors to the state parks can find art pieces generated by the program that celebrate both the state parks and local North Dakota artists.

Cross Ranch State Park is located 12 miles southeast of Hensler. For additional information about the park, please visit [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) or call the park at 701-794-3731.