

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**Photo attached. Cutline:** Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds (center) greets Iowa artists Sarah Grant (left) of Des Moines and Kathranne Knight (right) of Ames during a reception today at the State Capitol as part of the inaugural Iowa Women's Art Exhibition.

## Lt. Governor Reynolds honors female artists during reception for the Iowa Women's Art Exhibition program

**DES MOINES** – Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds honored three Iowans today for their participation in the inaugural Iowa Women's Art Exhibition that showcases works of female artists and celebrates their contributions to the cultural vitality and quality of life in Iowa.

Presented in conjunction with [Art Week Des Moines](#), today's program was held in the Lt. Governor's formal office where the exhibition has been on display since October 2014 and features works from Kathranne Knight of Ames, Sarah Grant of Des Moines and Mary Laube of Iowa City. The project was created by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Iowa Arts Council (IAC), a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), to highlight Iowa's female artists.

Art is essential to the quality of life in Iowa and female artists contribute to the entrepreneurial community of women in Iowa. Increasingly, Reynolds hears from businesses and industry that not only are they interested in Iowa's friendly business climate when considering where to reinvest and grow, they're also interested in a high quality of life – including vibrant arts and culture – for their employees.

"I am continually impressed with the dynamic and innovative female leadership that I meet throughout the state and I am eager to continue highlighting their impressive achievements and skillsets," Reynolds said. "Displaying this art in my formal office has provided me the rare opportunity to recognize female artists from Iowa and the important role they play as entrepreneurs in our state."

The artwork that was featured the last three months comes from artists that all have a connection to Iowa. The following artists' work is currently being displayed in the Lt. Governor's Formal Office:

- Kathranne Knight ([www.kathranneknight.com](http://www.kathranneknight.com)) is an Iowa-based artist who makes delicate, complex, textile-like landscape drawings. She received an MFA from Yale University in 1997 and her work has been shown nationally in galleries and museums. Knight is published in *New American Paintings #56*, Northeast Edition and is the recipient of an Iowa Artist Fellowship grant, awarded by the Iowa Arts Council. A photo of Knight's, *Tinsel in August*, created in 2010 can be seen [here](#).
- Sarah Grant ([www.sticks.com](http://www.sticks.com)) grew up in Ames and received an MFA in painting from the University of Iowa. She is the founder and owner of Sticks, an object art and furniture business located in Des Moines. Her honors and commissions include being named a Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant nominee finalist, a Kirkwood Hotel Mural Commission; and the Jerome Foundation Invitational Grant. A photo of Grant's *Fields meet Sky*, an acrylic and collage on paper work created in 2013, can be seen [here](#).
- Mary Laube ([www.marylaube.com](http://www.marylaube.com)) was born in South Korea and grew up in the Midwest. She received an MFA from the University of Iowa and a BFA from Illinois State University. Her work has been published in *New American Paintings #87* and *#101*. She received the Illinois National Women in the Arts Award in 2009 and a Project grant from the Iowa Arts Council. Laube's Acrylic and Oil on Panel work, *Onward and Upward*, can be seen [here](#).

In July 2015, three new female artists will be featured in the Lt. Governor's formal office. The public is welcome to visit. More information about the Iowa Arts Council is available at [www.iowaartscouncil.org](http://www.iowaartscouncil.org).

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*The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and its three divisions – the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa-State Office of Media Production and the State Historical Society of Iowa – empower Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state. The department's work enables Iowa to be recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations. [www.culturalaffairs.org](http://www.culturalaffairs.org)*