See Peter Sís - and his award-winning artwork - this fall

Award-winning artist presents
Cartography of the Mind

Hot off its exhibition at the Czech Center of New York, the NCSML is bringing an acclaimed exhibition of works by Peter Sís, a Czech-born American illustrator and writer of children’s books. Cartography of the Mind opens Sept. 19, with the artist personally in attendance for a reception.

The exhibition will feature approximately 50 works, including drawings, watercolors and gouaches from an array of books that explore man’s unending quest for discovery.

Peter Sís has earned the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award, the Hans Christian Andersen Foundation Award for Illustration, three Caldecott Honor Book Awards, and has contributed more than 1,000 drawings to The New York Times Book Review.

Sís continues on page 2
Staff additions & promotions strengthen NCSML operations

Gina Merritt joins the NCSML staff as our new executive assistant. Gina was previously the acting executive director for Gift of Fitness, a nonprofit catering to the fitness and nutrition needs of low-income women. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Trinity International University and a Master of Management in Nonprofit Administration degree from North Park University.

Elizabeth Schlegel was promoted to annual fund manager in April. Elizabeth joined the NCSML in November of 2011 as the membership & database manager. She graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Communications and has worked with many non-profits including Riverside Theatre, Orchestra Iowa and Hancher.

Emily Weber was promoted to membership & database manager in April. Emily joined the NCSML in May 2013 as the executive assistant. She is a graduate of Coe College with a B.A. in English and History, and has previously worked as a staff writer for Writers House Literary Agency and Stauder Technologies in New York City and St. Louis, MO respectively.

Leah Wilson has accepted the position of chief operating officer. She was hired in 2008 as director of programs and marketing, and has held several positions at the NCSML, most recently director of national development. Previously, Leah was the director of leadership giving at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA. She holds a B.A. from the University of Iowa.

Meet Peter Sis Sept. 19
continued from page 1

In 1982 Sis was sent by the Czech government to Los Angeles to produce a film for the 1984 Winter Olympics; he chose to stay in the U.S., launching a new career as an artist and author.

Cartography of the Mind features artwork from several books authored and illustrated by Sis, including Starry Messenger: Galileo and The Tree of Life. For more information about Peter Sis and Cartography of the Mind, visit www.NCSML.org.

Great Stories: An Evening with Peter Sis
Friday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Meet acclaimed storyteller and illustrator Peter Sis during this opening evening event. Visit with Peter and see his original, breathtaking illustrations in the NCSML’s Smith Gallery. Enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a book signing, and an exclusive program with our special guest. Tickets $30. RSVP to EWeber@NCSML.org or call 319-362-8500 x 205.
It's our 40th anniversary this year! It was 1974 when the Czech Fine Arts Foundation was established, which opened the first Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Many museums start this way, with a group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers who unite around a need that propels them to act. I've enjoyed the story from Denver Dvorsky and Bob Schaffer about how they met and decided that if the Fine Arts Foundation would give $75 per month and the Czech Heritage Foundation would contribute the same amount, they could pay the expenses of the first museum.

Wayne Gretzky, the all-time leading NHL goal scorer, once said, "100% of the shots you don't take, don't go in." We're fortunate our founders took their shot. This set the stage for successive goals that were met by taking risks, backed by a vision, and fortified by passionate and generous individuals.

In April, we dedicated Founders Hall, which recognizes and honors all the people who have made a difference over these 40 years. We also unveiled a plaque that lists the members of the Legacy Society, which recognizes the people who have pledged and given their support for the future of the NCSML through their estate plans and other planned giving vehicles.

Because, of course, even more than celebrating the past, anniversaries are about the future. The vision of the earliest days has been eclipsed 40 years later. Well over 600,000 persons have made their way to the NCSML! Thousands have given of their time, talent and treasure to make the NCSML a success. Our professional staff works tirelessly to preserve the heritage and provide a stellar variety of educational programs, exhibitions and events. A cadre of loyal volunteers makes every visitor welcome and helps keep this place running like a top. Generous donors provide support now and include the museum in their plans for the future. We are keeping the original passion alive and the passion of all those who have joined us over the years. Because of all of you, the NCSML will be here in the future to share your stories with generations to come.

All my best,

Gail Naughton

I write sharing my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and also of my admiration as the NCSML delivers its mission through captivating exhibitions, school-age learning, and an emerging array of programming that is certain to fascinate.

We follow popular exhibits last year with an engaging lineup. Look for a series of workshops building upon the Celebration! Rituals and Revelries of Life exhibit, enlivening Czech rituals and ceremonies. Additionally, Music at the Museum and Great Stories – An Author Series are two series in the humanities presenting musical performances and dramatic personal stories describing tragedy and triumph. Don't miss Images Gone with Time and Slovakia-Untouched Metamorphoses of the Present Time, two vivid photographic exhibits capturing the culture and lives of the Slovak people. Finally, passage through Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey tells the stories of world war, communism and the pursuit of freedom through the Czech and Slovak experience.

Notably, 2014 will see our museum on the move nationally. Travelling exhibits and plays telling of the Velvet Revolution and stories of daily struggle and political dissidence will pay visits to major metropolitan areas for the first time. These events signify our renewed intention as a thought-leading institution with national and international impact.

To our donors, I express the Board of Directors' deepest gratitude. To all of our friends, I invite you to membership and its many benefits, and to become inspired with us. We are a museum moving with a vision, and we want to see and hear from you in 2014!

Sincerely,

Richard Mitvalsky

www.NCSML.org
CLASSES

Summer Camp: Fun With Folk Art!

Spend a week this summer learning from a Master Folk Artist! Decorate beautiful eggs using traditional techniques, discover the craft of Polish paper cutting, turn ordinary wheat and straw into works of art, and use dough to create cute Czech-style creatures that become keepsakes. There are 3 fun hands-on crafts each day.

Folk artist Daniela Sipkova Mahoney learned how to decorate eggs when she was a young girl in Czechoslovakia. She has continued this tradition, and has taught many cultural craft classes for both adults and children. Daniela has published many children's coloring and activity books, and enjoys teaching about Czech and Slovak heritage. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

DAY CAMP INCLUDES:

- Painted Eggs
- Introduction To Czech Folk Art
- Discovering Folk Costumes
- Paper Art

... AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION, VISIT WWW.NCSML.ORG

Daniela’s offering classes for adults, too!

Straw Appliquéd Egg Decorating Workshop
Saturday, July 12 at 1:00 p.m.
Learn to decorate painted eggs using carefully cut pieces of straw. Folk artist Daniela Sipkova Mahoney from Portland, Oregon will teach students to arrange these shapes into beautiful ornamental designs. After creating these unique eggs, each student will weave a miniature basket in which to hold their newly-finished masterpiece!
Ages 12+. $30 members, $35 public.

Inspired by Kroje: Crafting with Paper and Wheat
Saturday, July 19 at 1:00 p.m.
Learn about kroje (folk costumes) of the Czech and Slovak Republic. See and touch some of these beautiful garments. Share your heritage with the class by bringing a piece of clothing from your family’s region of the world (optional). Be inspired by these cherished heirlooms: create one-of-a-kind note cards for your family and friends using paper cutting and fabric design methods. Make your own doll from wheat, and design her traditional garb.
Ages 8+. $25 members, $30 public.

Pre-registration for all classes is required.
RSVP to SJacobmeyer@NCSML.org.
Celebration continues now through January

Where can you find a chimney sweep, a Turk and a witch? Visit the new exhibit Celebration! Rituals and Revelry of Life to meet these and many more characters.

The exhibit, on loan from the National Museum in Prague, features the year in Czech rituals, customs and traditions. From Masopust to Christmas you will see masks and costumes associated with pre-Lenten carnivals, Easter whips and decorated eggs, wedding finery, harvest tools, nativity scenes, and Advent masks.

The exhibit was created for the NCSML by the staff at the ethnographic branch of the National Museum. We have been working together for about three years to bring the exhibition to Iowa. The National Museum staff compiled over 200 artifacts that represent every region of the Czech Republic. Two curators accompanied the artifacts and led the efforts to install the exhibition in the Petrik Gallery.

While some traditions will be familiar to our visitors, such as the Christmas tree and decorated eggs, other customs will be surprising. The Turk and the chimney sweep are important characters in the Masopust parades. Masopust occurs between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, and features parades and revelry with costumed participants. The chimney sweep is associated with good luck and prosperity. Historically, the Turks were a powerful invading force; the Turk in the parade is instructed to dance, not fight.

Many of the traditions explored in the exhibit pre-date Christian times and have changed over time to fit in with Christian beliefs.

Celebration! will remain in the Petrik Gallery until January 11, 2015.

ALSO ON DISPLAY...

SMITH GALLERY
The Smith Gallery hosts Images Gone With Time until the end of July. This exhibit features 40 photographs from the NCSML collection. Igor Grossmann was a pharmacist turned photographer in the 1950s and 60s. He lived in a rural Slovak village, and realized that the life ways and customs he experienced were part of an old world that was rapidly being replaced with a modern, communist one. The photographs capture the landscapes, people, and traditions of Slovak mountain villages.

In September, the Smith Gallery will house Cartography of the Mind, an acclaimed exhibition of works by Peter Sis, a Czech-born American illustrator and writer of children's books. The exhibition will feature approximately 50 works, including drawings, watercolors and gouaches from an array of books that explore man's unending quest for discovery.

ANDERSON GALLERY
On Death and Horses and Other People will be at the NCSML through September. This is a stunning collection of photographs on loan from the photographer, Marketa Luskacova. Luskacova began to photograph the Czech Carnival (Masopust) in 1998 and has photographed more than 40 carnivals in Bohemia. This exhibit features photographs of the residents of Roztoky. The Masopust celebration there has grown since 1998 and now more than 2500 people visit the village to see the parades. The group from Roztoky make their own elaborate masks and puppets each year.
Thanking Our Members

As our membership continues to grow, we'd like to take the time to thank each of our 2,000+ members for their support throughout the year. Membership directly supports the NCSML and ensures that we fulfill our mission to inspire people from every background to connect to Czech & Slovak history and culture. Below is a reminder of the fantastic benefits members of the NCSML receive:

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<tr>
<th>Individual Membership</th>
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<td>Free enrollment in Time Travelers Program with benefits at more than 100 museums in 42 states: visit <a href="http://timetravelers.mohistor.org">http://timetravelers.mohistor.org</a> for a complete listing:</td>
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**Finder’s Daughter Hits The Road**

Original play that premiered at the NCSML last summer is now performing at cities across the country.

The Finder's Daughter, an original play by Working Group Theatre, is taking its act on the road.

Based on stories from the NCSML's Oral History project, The Finder's Daughter premiered last summer during the opening weekend of Faces of Freedom. Now the play is headed for venues around the country, including the Omaha Community Playhouse (July 18) and Western Springs Theatre in Chicago (August 16).

Learn more about this project and where it's going at [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org).
Celebrate With Us July 12!

Bring the whole family for a day of fun at the NCSML on Saturday, July 12. In celebration of our 40th year as an organization, we are offering a variety of special features, including:

- Free admission all day
- Extended gallery hours
- Free commemorative 40th anniversary pin to the first 100 people through the door
- Family activities, a Wedding Anniversary Celebration, beer garden and more
- Free concert by William Elliott Whitmore

See details below!

Schedule of Events

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Free admission for all visitors. Free 40th anniversary commemorative pin to the first 100 visitors through the door. Also, store-wide sales in the Museum Store.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Free family activities indoors and outdoors, including chalk mural, bubbles, folk dance, juggling lessons, and ethnic make-and-take crafts.

11:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Grill and beverages by Hy-Vee Wilson Ave. available outdoors.

1:00 p.m. - History of Czechs and Slovaks in Cedar Rapids discussion on NCSML's Naxera Terrace.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Wedding Anniversary Celebration in WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall for couples who have had their wedding ceremony or reception at the NCSML. Includes cake and a professional photo. Wedding items from the NCSML's artifact collection will be on display all day.

6:00 p.m. - Beer garden featuring Lion Bridge Brewing Company opens outdoors.

7:00 p.m. - Free outdoor concert in the Rockwell Collins Amphitheater by William Elliott Whitmore. Beer garden available. (No coolers or large bags, please).

See a free concert by William Elliott Whitmore

Popular singer/songwriter William Elliott Whitmore will play a free outdoor concert at 7 p.m. July 12 as part of the NCSML's 40th anniversary celebration.

With acclaimed live performances as well as albums full of songs not only from both the heart and the heartland, William Elliott Whitmore has earned plenty of respect in the folk, blues and alt-country communities, as well as rock. In the past, the Iowa native has toured with Chris Cornell, City and Colour, The Pogues, Frontier Ruckus, Frank Turner and The Low Anthem. Whitmore's 2009 release, Animals in the Dark, reached Number 50 on the Billboard Heatseekers chart. No tickets are required for this free event, which will take place in the NCSML's Rockwell Collins Amphitheater along the Cedar River. Beer garden available. (No coolers or large bags, please).

Catch Music At The Museum this summer and fall

Emil Viklický and Special Guest Scott Robinson

Friday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening with the "Dean of Moravian Jazz," Emil Viklický, and guest saxophonist Scott Robinson.

Public (advance) $20, public (door) $22, NCSML members $16. Ticket price includes one drink.

Apple Train, feat. Dr. Timothy Cheek, Dr. Laurie Lashbrook, Bohuslava Jelinková & Timothy J. Cheek

Monday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Experience the beauty of Janáček, Moravian poetry, and interpretive dance all rolled into one evening. Apple Train was written for the performers by Czech composer Sylvie Bodorová. This is the Iowa premiere performance, and it includes a pre-performance talk with the artists.

Public (advance) $15, public (door) $18, NCSML members $12. Ticket price includes one drink.

Domažlická dudácká muzika

Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

This award-winning, upbeat ensemble has traveled internationally to bring their music to Europe, the USA, and Japan.

Free to the public. Cash bar available.

Music At The Museum is generously sponsored by CRST and Alliant Energy.
Married At The Museum

The NCSML has seen a surge in weddings since the building’s Grand Re-opening in 1995. Here’s why.

The first time Ken Gawne visited the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, he had no idea that people could actually get married there.

So when the Chicagoland native and his fiancee Christy began searching for a wedding venue, the couple got quite the surprise from what they now call “Cedar Rapids’ little secret.”

“We had started by looking at places in Chicago,” Ken says. “But then someone suggested the museum here, and we were really intrigued by how unique the venue was. Most people from outside of Iowa don’t think you can find something like this here. And yet, we got so many wonderful comments from our guests. People told us it was the most beautiful wedding they had ever been to.”

The Gawnes’ experience is part of a growing trend. Although weddings have been available at the NCSML since it opened its red-roofed building in 1995, the Museum took a huge step forward in July of 2012. Four years after suffering heavy damage in the Flood of 2008, the NCSML’s building was moved to a higher location overlooking the Cedar River.

From there, the NCSML was renovated and expanded to include a much larger, modern banquet hall; outdoor patio; catering kitchen; extensive green space outdoors; and other touches that were designed to make the Museum an outstanding venue for special events.

As a result, today’s NCSML can host weddings with a scale and flexibility far beyond
anything the facility was capable of before the flood. Yet the classic appeal of the building – including the crystal chandelier hanging in Rozek Grand Hall – is a big selling point.

“When we walked in for the first time and we stood under that chandelier, we were sold from that moment,” says Tania Moss, who married her husband Cory at the NCSML earlier this year. “Our wedding was a fairy tale.”

Several couples pointed out how "photogenic" the NCSML was. Christy and Ken Gawne's wedding took place outside next to the river; Tania and Cory Moss were married inside, under the chandelier in Rozek Grand Hall.

"I can't even describe how just seeing the building makes me feel," says Christy. "Really, it's an experience like no other."

"Our wedding was a fairy tale."

-Tania Moss

Read the rest of this article and see more pictures at www.NCSML.org.

The NCSML offers the perfect setting for your special day. Among our features:

- Experienced coordinators provided from start to finish
- Full service bar with bartenders
- Choose from a list of expert caterers
- Bridal party dressing room provided for on-site weddings
- Book your rehearsal dinner and receive special discounts
- Complimentary indoor and outdoor parking
- Handicap accessible
- Discounted admission to galleries available

For more information, contact Amy Lyness at (319) 362-8500 or alyness@NCSML.org.

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New jewelry takes flight

Petal Collection features one-of-a-kind pieces created by Czech family

The Petal Connection is a mother and daughters artist collaboration. The family originated from Ostrava, Czech Republic and now live and create in California.

All jewelry is one of a kind wearable pieces made of all natural flowers, petals, and butterflies.*

The "petalers" have developed an exclusive method of preservation that includes UV protection, and application of a clear finish that makes the flowers and butterflies appear sometimes even brighter than in real life. The resulting jewelry pieces are very lightweight and durable. In the Museum Store we carry a wide variety of butterfly and flower earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Stop in today for the perfect spring and summer accessory!

*Disclaimer: All butterflies are collected from a conservation preserve after they have lived out their natural life-cycle.

Bring home authentic spa wafers

Since 1640 these gourmet wafers - traditionally called oplatky - have been hand made in the Czech Republic resort destination of Karlovy Vary, also known as Carlsbad. Fashionable among Europe's elite, oplatky were eagerly consumed by the rich and famous. Today, a family company originating from the Czech Republic (and now based in California) is one of only a handful of bakers to still use the techniques and recipes of the Old Country.

Each crisp, light wafer is lovingly handmade then baked, aged twelve days, carefully filled with all natural filling and baked again. All wafers are ready to enjoy right out of the box or with your favorite glass of fine wine, coffee or tea. The wafers also make an elegant accompaniment to coffee, tea, sorbet and ice cream.

In the Museum Store, we offer flavors ranging from mocha-hazelnut to raspberry-almond. Pick up a small box for a snack or get a larger box for the perfect gift with a touch of elegance.

Jam with us!

New to the Museum Store are organic preserves and jams. Perfect for your next koláč recipe, or great alone. These preserves are the perfect gift for someone who loves to bake or simply a great addition to an afternoon snack.

In the Museum Store, we carry a wide variety of butterfly and flower earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Stop in today for the perfect spring and summer accessory!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Curator Guided Tours of Celebration! Rituals and Revelry of Life
On the following Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.: July 26, August 9, September 6, October 18
Join NCSML Curator Stefanie Kohn for an in-depth look at this exhibit from the National Museum in Prague. Free with paid or member admission.

Walking Tours of Historic Czech Neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids
New Bohemia: Thursday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m.
Czech Village: Thursday, August 21 at 6:00 p.m.
Join Cedar Rapids historian Mark Stoffer Hunter from The History Center and Jan Stoffer from the NCSML as they reveal the fascinating history behind these unique Cedar Rapids neighborhoods. Public $7, members of NCSML or The History Center $6. Tour begins in the NCSML's Rozek Grand Hall.

Kids' Drop-In Activities
On the following Saturdays from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.: September 13 October 11
Bring your imagination for an afternoon of creative crafts based on the work of illustrator Peter Sis. Stop by any time during drop-in hours. Free to the public.

40th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, July 12 from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
This family-friendly event will feature free admission, extended gallery hours, and activities for all ages. See page 7 for a full schedule.

Fun with Folk Art! NCSML Summer Camp
Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18 from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Kids K-8 can explore Czech and Slovak folk arts and history in this hands-on day camp. Schedule and registration form are available online, or email SJacobmeyer@NCSML.org.

ExperTEAS: Czech Glass & Garnets
Wednesday, August 13 at 1:00 p.m.
Enjoy tasty gourmet treats, tea, and coffee as you listen to special guest Bob Schaffer from Czech Cottage talk about the creation of Czech glass, and the history behind the ever-popular garnet. RSVP to SJacobmeyer@NCSML.org, or 319-362-8500 x 204. Public $15, NCSML members $10.

From the Collection: Phonographs
Saturday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m.
Learn how the American market for Czech and Slovak music differed from that of its European counterpart. The program will include playing 78 rpm and 33 rpm records. Free.

Great Stories: Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance
Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Charles Novacek's award-winning memoir describes an idyllic childhood shattered by the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. As part of the Czech Resistance Movement, he delivered messages to soldiers parachuting behind enemy lines, hid these soldiers in caves equipped for their shelter, and was later captured and jailed by Communists. His story of risk, bravery, daring escapes, and eventual triumph will be presented by his wife, Sandra Novacek. A book signing will follow the talk. Free to the public.

Great Stories: My Slovakia, My Family
Thursday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m.
According to Madeleine Albright, John Palka's book "is a heartfelt tale of a nation's struggle to exist and of a family's pivotal role in influencing its destiny." It is filled with escapes from Nazis and Communists, heroism during WWII, ordinary life, tales of revolution, and the revelation that his family played an important role in the Slovak National Awakening — and so much more. Join us for a talk with the author, followed by a book signing. Free to the public.

To learn more about any of these events, visit www.NCSML.org or call (319) 362-8500.
Join us for the libation celebration of the year!

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library wants to party with you on Friday, October 3, 2014! We’re throwing the trendiest affair you’ll ever find under a Preciosa chandelier: we’ve got mad “hops,” food from the Corridor’s finest, a swinging live band, an irresistible silent auction and Beer Guys from John’s Grocery who can’t be beat!

We will have you sipping pivo from around the world, delighting in wine tasting tables featuring exquisite international wines and non-alcoholic favorites offered in plenty. Pair that with food from talented chefs around the Corridor and you have a night you’ll never forget! You’ll love dancing to our ridiculously talented guest band Copper Box, hailing from Oshkosh, WI and perhaps you’ll win a trip for two to Prague!

Help us toast the NCSML at the celebration you don’t want to miss!

Call your friends and reserve the evening of Friday, October 3, 2014