FORT SMITH
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

MUSEUM NOTES SPRING 2019

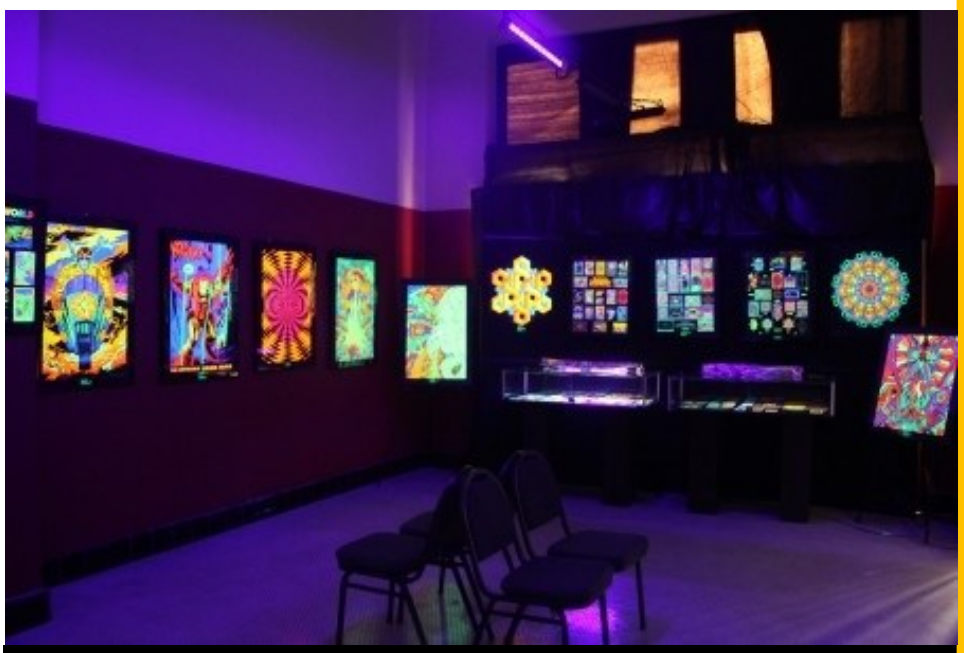
Art by the People-for the People

A new exhibition, loaned from the LeFlore County Museum in Poteau, features vintage black light poster graphics from the mid-1960s-early 1970s. *Art by the People-for the People* celebrates the private collection of 1960 Poteau High School graduate and current Poteau resident, Roberta Bell. The exhibition will open in the Boyd Gallery on Thursday, June 20 with 6:00 pm reception.

Allan and Roberta Bell Ehrlich published two hundred of the posters as part of the Third Eye, Inc. in New York City. Roberta Bell designed fourteen of the posters and served as the founder, art director and vice president of the Third Eye.

Among the artwork on display are Marvel Comics heroes Iron Man and Spider-Man. The Third Eye bought the rights to publish posters and greeting cards of Marvel Comics and distributed the products all across the country. The company also published art from other American creators.

Originally, in the 1960s and 1970s, the company's goal was to sell the posters for $1 each to wholesalers with a retail cost of $2. Today, the posters sell for $500-$1,000 each. Experience the brilliant and unique posters displayed in a black light environment. The exhibit will run through the summer.



Exhibition at the LeFlore County Museum (*Courtesy of the Poteau Daily News).*

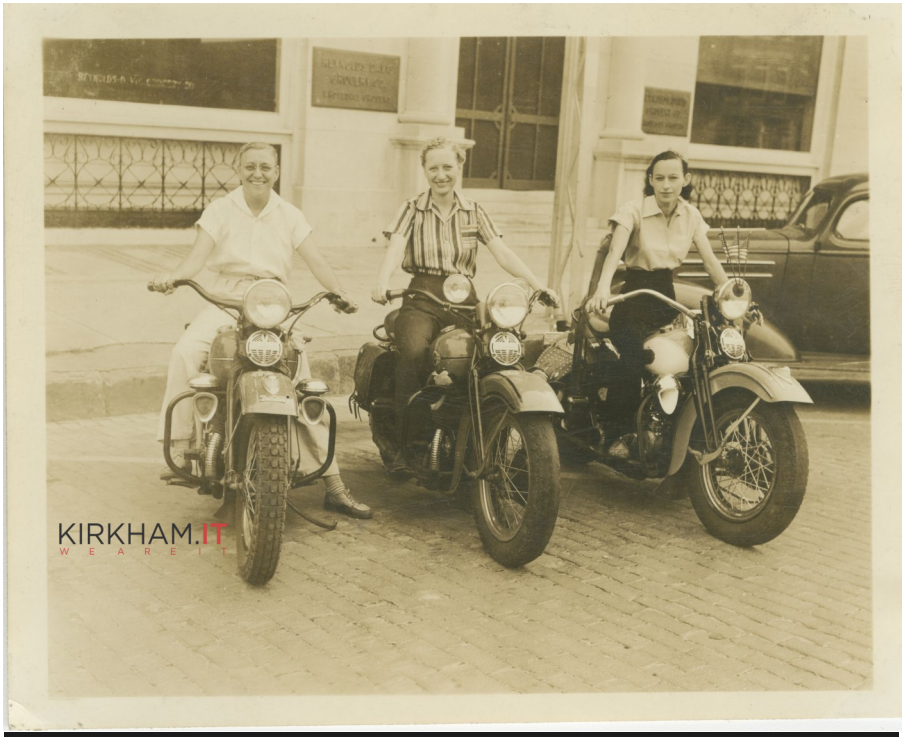
The exhibit will display in a full black light environment to enjoy the full-size posters and glowing miniature pieces.

"*This is something for young and old alike.*"

Bonnie Prigmore
Leflore County Museum
Director

Upcoming Events

- ***Motorcycle Memories***
  Exhibit through May
  Programs May 3&4,1pm
  Motorcycle Show-May 4
  Beer Garden-May 4
- ***Art by the People-for the People***
  Opens June 20, 6pm
- **Boston Store Tea Room and Style Show**
  September 14
  Hardscrabble
- **Murder and Mayhem**
  October 25-31
- **Build-a-Pal**
  December
- **Pardi Gras**
  February 22, 2020



Motor Maids 1940 in front of the Reynolds-Davis Building at 3rd and Garrison.

Motorcycle Memories

Exhibit through May.
Programs May 3 and 4 at 1:00 pm

Motorcycle gathering on Garrison, 1940. Quin Winters is on the left.

Steel Horse Motorcycle Rally

The Fort Smith Museum of History is once again a proud recipient of proceeds from the popular annual Steel Horse Motorcycle Rally. During the rally, the *Motorcycle Memories* exhibition will be featured in the Boyd Gallery. Learn about the fascinating history of motorcycle culture in Fort Smith and the region. This year the exhibit will feature an interview with local legend, Robert Winters.

The *Motorcycle Memories* program will be presented on May 3 and 4 at 1:00 pm.

The official Steel Horse Rally **Motorcycle Show** will be May 4, 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Call or visit the website to register. $20 donation per entry. Trophies are awarded for the winner in each class.

A **Beer Garden** will be open on May 4, 11:00am-1:00pm with beer, brats and burgers.

Join us for this fun event that brings thousands to downtown Fort Smith!

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Remember the museum for honorariums, memorials and bequests.

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Pardi Gras

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Thank you to all Pardi Gras supporters. Save the Date for next year: 02/22/20

Future School students examine Vietnamese children's art from 1975.

Research and Exhibit Project Future School

Taylor Gilbreath's students from Future School are researching and preparing an exhibition exploring the Southeast Asian refugees housed at Fort Chaffee in 1975.

The exhibit will be featured at Bastion Gallery during May.

The museum has a collection of artwork created by Vietnamese children while at Fort Chaffee. The artifacts will be utilized for the exhibition.

Arkansas' Western *Post: Fort Smith's Two Centuries*

The Fort Smith Museum of History will provide artifacts for an exhibition for the Arkansas State Capitol. The exhibit will be featured at the Capitol in the Rotunda during the summer months. Twenty photographs and a selections of artifacts chronicling the history of the city will be loaned for the summer.

From the early days of the fort, the exhibit will include a silver fork that belonged to General Thomas Smith, Fort Smith's namesake, and a shawl that belonged to the wife of Major William Bradford, commander of the first fort. A reproduction of a George Catlin painting, "Mad Buffalo" and an oil painting by Bliss Alexander will represent the decades of Indian Removal and the second fort. Artifacts belonging to the grandson of John Rogers, U. S. Deputy Marshal Sidney Johnston will be displayed for the Parker era.

Twentieth century business, people and events will be represented along with images, maps and documents. Photos, artifacts and information on the Vietnamese , Cuban and Katrina refugees at Fort Chaffee will bring the exhibit up to the mid-20th century. Check it out when in Little Rock this summer!

J. H. Sparks took this medicine chest to California on an 1850 expedition.

Exhibition at the Arkansas State Capitol. Summer 2019.