



HLC Accreditation Evidence

- Shafer Art Gallery

URL:

Office of Origin:

- Barton Community College Foundation

Contact(s):

- Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
 - Director of the Shafer Art Gallery



About the Gallery

About the L. E. "Gus" and Eva Shafer Memorial Art Gallery

The L.E. "Gus" and Eva Shafer Memorial Gallery has been called the "Gem of the Campus". Located in the Fine Arts building, the Shafer Gallery displays significant works by Gus Shafer, objects from Barton's growing permanent collection, and a rotating series of exhibitions from regional and national artists. Learn more about [upcoming exhibits and events!](#) Check out the archive [collection](#) on Flickr to view images of past exhibits, and check out the [current albums](#) for more recent events and exhibits.

The L. E. "Gus" and Eva Shafer Memorial Art Gallery has been referred to as the "Gem of the Campus" at Barton Community College. The Shafer Gallery demonstrates the perseverance of a dream and a strong commitment to culture and arts. The late Gus Shafer grew up near Hoisington, Kansas and gained international prominence for his bronze sculptures. After a monetary donation from Art, Inc. in 1984, the BCCC Foundation began seeking major gifts for the building of an art gallery on campus. Mrs. Eva Shafer made an outright commitment and ground was broken on September 22, 1991. The grand opening was held November 1, 1992.

The 7,709 square feet of exhibit space, based on repeating hexagons, can change configurations to accommodate many different sizes and types of exhibits. The gallery features a glass-enclosed lobby and a sculpture area featuring Shafer's work. The gallery allows extensive display of Barton's permanent art collection and provides the necessary temperature, lighting and security requirements to qualify for exhibits from the Smithsonian Institution; Exhibits USA; Mid-America Arts Alliance; and Smith-Kramer, Inc. Each year, the gallery attracts thousands of visitors from the local area and the Midwest, as well as those from across the country and abroad.

The Art (Our permanent collection)

The Gallery's roots date back to 1981, when Mrs. Faerie Denman of Great Bend donated the extensive 507-piece art collection that she and her husband Cedric, had acquired over the years. The collection, valued at more than \$200,000, demanded proper storage and the means by which Barton could share the artwork with the community. Now numbering more than 800 pieces, the Permanent Art Collection includes 28 of Shafer's bronzes and more than 100 works by Great Bend native Charles B. Rogers. The collection also contains masterpieces by such artistic giants as Chagall, Matisse, Picasso, Audubon, as well as many others.

Gus Shafer

A son of the Kansas prairie, Leonard E. "Gus" Shafer was born January 23, 1907, on a farm southwest of Hoisington, Kansas.

A farm hand named "Old Ben" taught him to hunt, trap and ride. Shafer felt that the influence of Old Ben and his grandfather caused him to have such interest in the Old West.



While attending a small one-room schoolhouse, Shafer learned to draw. Following graduation from Hoisington High School in 1925, he attended Grinnell College in Iowa and Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kan., where he met Eva.

They were married in 1930 and moved to Kansas City where he worked for 38 years as a commercial artist. He sculpted his first model for casting in 1966 at the age of 59.

In 1968 he closed his art studio and began sculpting bronzes full time, for which he later became internationally famous. L. E. "Gus" Shafer passed away on May 5, 1985, but his legacy lives on, here, in the gallery.



[2020-21 Gallery Report](#)

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Shafer Art Gallery

To see past and current shows go to [Shafer Gallery Portfolio of Exhibits!](#)

Current Exhibit!!

August 19th - September 24th

Connections & Concealment

Connections & Concealment is my (Alyssa Rose Bliven) first opportunity to curate an exhibition. To give a short background to who was selected: I sent out a call to my friends, colleagues, and professors from undergrad, graduate, and even one artist I have known since kindergarten. I asked them to send me their work focusing on the topic of Connections and Concealment. They could pick one word, the other, both, or even the opposite. I chose works that flow through these words, in and out. More than one entry was welcomed so you will see multiple works from each artist. Some artists already had work that related to this idea others wanted to use this call as a spring board for new work. A wide range of art practices are present from drawing, fiber art, jewelry, painting, ceramics, glass, and installation art. Artists are: Addison Heeren (New York), Alida van Almelo (Alaska), Anke Huyben (Netherlands), Emily Culver (Virginia), Jerome Dubas (Nebraska), Juvana Soliven (Hawaii), Katy Gerwig (Colorado), Monica Nickles (California), Morgan Shipps (Kentucky), Tom Kreager (Nebraska), Torey Akers (New York), and Turner McGehee (Nebraska).



Pop by Morgan Shipps

Gallery Hours and Contact Info

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5 pm.

Closed academic holidays.

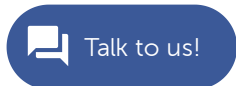
Contact: Dave Barnes, Gallery Director

Phone: 620-792-9342

Email: ShaferGallery@bartonccc.edu

Address: 245 NE 30 Road, Great Bend, KS 67530

facebook.com/shafergallery



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Exhibits & Events

[< Back to Shafer Art Gallery.](#)

Upcoming Exhibit

Rebel Mahieu

- July 8th - August 13th
- Opening Reception July 8th @ 6:30 pm

Steve Dudek

- July 8th - August 13th
- Special Celebration August 5th @ 6:30 pm

Connections and Concealment

- August 19th - September 24th
- Opening Reception August 19th @ 6:30 pm

Virtual Vortex: Online High School Student Show

- Site goes live May 8th
- <https://virtualvortex2022.myportfolio.com/>

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