

**Contact:**

**Tami Miller, Curator**  
Phone: 269.983.0271  
Email: tmiller@krasl.org

707 Lake Boulevard  
St. Joseph, MI 49085 USA  
www.krasl.org



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Dorothea Lange's America and 1940s Berrien County Photographs On View at the Krasl Art Center**

Exhibition Dates: November 20, 2015 – January 10, 2016  
Free & Open to the Public

**St. Joseph, MI, October 30, 2015:**

### **DOROTHEA LANGE'S AMERICA**

If it is a cliché that art and suffering can be closely connected, it is nonetheless true that the Great Depression was the catalyst for a tremendous outburst of creative energy in America's photographic community. The devastation wreaked upon the country inspired a host of socially conscious photographers to capture the painful stories of the time.

Pre-eminent among the artists of this time was Dorothea Lange (1895-1965). Her empathetic images of migrant workers, suffering families, and tortured landscapes seared the faces of the Depression into America's consciousness. Her most celebrated photographs of that era – *Migrant Mother*, *White Angel Bradline*, and *Migratory Cotton Picker* – have become icons in American cultural history.

This exhibition features 55 images total, by Lange and twelve of her contemporaries. Highlighted are oversized exhibition prints of her most iconic works. All works are from the collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. This exhibition is organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

Exhibition Sponsor:  CHEMICAL BANK.

### **In the artlab:**

View powerful and stunning photographs of Berrien County in 1940 by John Vachon.

Image: *Migrant fruit worker*, 1940 by John Vachon.

Exhibition Sponsor: John DeLapa

\*Images available upon request.

**EXHIBITION RELATED EVENTS****EXHIBITION LECTURE & OPENING**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Free and open to the public

**5-6 PM: LECTURE - THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND BERRIEN COUNTY**

Lange captured the effects of the Great Depression on the United States. Learn about the economic downturn's local impact at this unique, pre-opening lecture by local historian and author Bob Meyers. Following, poet Ron Weber will read a poem inspired by Lange's *Migrant Mother* image.

**6-8 PM: OPENING PARTY**

Celebrate the opening of these extraordinary visual, historical and cultural exhibitions. All ages welcome. Children's Art Workshop with hands-on art making activity is available – free for KAC members, \$10 per non-member family.

**KAC MEMBER EVENT: COFFEE WITH THE CURATOR**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 9 AM

Join KAC Curator Tami Miller for an intimate tour of the exhibition.

**GEORGE KRASL MEMORIAL CONCERT**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7 PM

Free and open to the public

The sounds of blues, jazz, Dixieland and bluegrass performed by the Ed Bagatini Trio take you on a musical journey of the Depression era. Guest artists include fiddling champions Matthew and Noah Tan, Dave Ratajik on clarinet and Dr. Larry Schanker on the piano.

**MOVIE SCREENING**

DOROTHEA LANGE: GRAB A HUNK OF LIGHTNING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 7 PM

Free and open to the public

View more than five decades of 20th-century America through the prism of Dorothea Lange's life and lens. This film is a labor of love for its director, Lange's granddaughter, Dyanna Taylor, who literally began her artistic vision at Lange's feet (108 mins).

**KRASL ART CENTER**

The Krasl Art Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. The Krasl Art Center is located in downtown St. Joseph, Michigan overlooking Lake Michigan. The KAC has three public galleries, five studios, a library/lecture room, a black and white wet darkroom, a gift shop, and a permanent collection of 42 works of sculpture. Through its mission to bring people and art together, the KAC offers thoughtful exhibitions, engaging classes and camps, community events such as Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff and the Artisan Market, outreach opportunities, and cultural exploration. The Krasl Art Center is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Krasl Art Center galleries are open Monday-Wednesday, Friday & Saturday from 10-4; Thursday from 10-9; and Sunday 1-4. Admission to the galleries is free of charge. For more information, please contact the Krasl Art Center at 269.983.0271, or visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org).