

**REECE  
CRAWFORD**  
Visions of a Community


 **MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA ART**  
2401 Central Ave. • Kearney, NE 68847 • (308) 865-8559 • [mona.unk.edu](http://mona.unk.edu)  
Hours: Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 12-5 p.m., closed Mon & major holidays

Image: *Ned the Cowboy*, glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993, Museum Purchase, Museum of Nebraska Art Collection



January 22 - April 7, 2019

## REECE CRAWFORD

An untrained artist, Reece Crawford creates whimsical, figurative, and relief sculpture using paper mâché.

Born in 1955 in Springfield, Massachusetts, Crawford moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 1969 when her mother remarried. After graduation from Bellevue East High School (near Omaha) in 1973, she worked periodically as a singer, a seamstress, and a cytology clerk. Crawford began creating her works in 1989 during the free hours from her then full-time job with an Omaha software company. After awaking night after night with visions of individuals in her African American community, she was compelled to recreate them in three-dimensional form, first utilizing sawdust and water. The pieces fell apart, and soon Crawford turned to her day job for help and asked if she could use the shredded paper from the company. She combined this paper with Elmer's glue and a Downey/Clorox mixture to develop a successful material to shape. Crawford would wake up in the very early hours of the morning after a vision, work on a face until she had it right, go back to sleep, and later figure out the rest of the body. The finished paper mâché figure was then painted with a commercial paint, and, in later works, she sometimes added dolls' eyes and hair purchased at local hobby shops. While the works are caricatures of the people in the artist's community, they are sensitive and loving portrayals that she considers an ode to her neighborhood. Many of her sculpted figures emit a feeling of lightness and joy, while alluding to issues confronting African American communities.

Crawford's work has been exhibited in Omaha at the Great Plains Black Museum, Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, and Artspace. In 1993, Crawford was awarded a Regional Visual Arts Fellowship by the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1997, she and fellow Omahan Pamela J. Berry collaborated with Flo Oy Wong on an installation, *Kente Rice Women: Talking our Connection*, at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, California that explored Wong's friendship with the two African American artists.

## EXHIBITION LIST

*African Man on Horse*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Boy with Dog*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Raymond O. Sutton, Jr.

*Carmeletta*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1991  
Gift of Tom Bartek

*Church Sisters*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Country Grands*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1991  
Gift of Tom Bartek

*Dot*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Gram*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1992  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Me and Mom*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1991  
Gift of Tom Bartek

*Ned the Cowboy*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Museum Purchase

*Pinky in Toy Car*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Raymond O. Sutton, Jr.

*Sadie*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1991  
Gift of Tom Bartek

*School Girl*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Jennifer L. Shepard

*Simon*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1992  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Turtle Rider*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Untitled (man with mustache & goatee)*

glue, paint, shredded paper; c. 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Untitled (man)*

glue, paint, shredded paper; c. 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

*Woman with Crown*

glue, paint, shredded paper; 1993  
Gift of Judith Shepard

All works Museum of Nebraska Art Collection