Missouri Nostalgia: Works on Paper from the Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney Collection
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The Museum preserves the Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney Collection (SVBC), which features ninety-eight paintings, watercolors, and drawings that depict various aspects of life in Missouri from 1946 and 1947. Also known as the Heart of the Nation Collection, these original works of art were commissioned by the Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney department store in Saint Louis to document life in rural and urban Missouri. Since these works came under the Museum’s stewardship in 2014, having previously been displayed in offices and hallways throughout historic Jesse Hall at the University of Missouri, only a handful of the paintings and a few of the works on paper have been on display. This focus exhibition will present selections of watercolors and drawings from this unique collection, in order to highlight specific views of Missouri and compare them to their appearances today. Artists involved in the SVBC project sought to capture activities from different locations and in different seasons. Variation and continuity are salient theses of the remarkable collection, and this selection of works with comparable modern-day photographs will echo these themes, demonstrating the sometimes changeability and sometimes persistence of the landscapes and cityscapes around us.

Howard Baer (American, 1906–1986)
Old Farm Hand, 1946
Watercolors on paper (2014.13)*

Fletcher Martin (American, 1904–1979)
On the Levee, St. Louis, 1947, Ink and ink wash on paper (2014.78)*

Georges Schreiber (American, 1904–1977)
Winter Cornfield in the Ozarks, 1947, Watercolor and ink on paper (2014.93)*

Abdul Dehn (American, 1895–1968)
Sheep Farm in Missouri on Route 71, 1947, Watercolor on paper (2014.46)*

*All Works were Gifts of Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney, Inc. Transferred from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Operations, MU

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Link for the Missouri Heart of the Nation Booklet produced by the Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney Firm about the SVB collection:
https://mospace.umsystem.edu/xmlui/handle/10355/54603