



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MAM's 37th Benefit Art Auction Exhibition January 9 - February 19, 2009 Presenting Sponsor **usbank** Five Star Service Guaranteed

Auction Exhibition Opening and Artist Reception: January 9, 5-7 PM
Artini: On the Block, January 15, 5:30-9 PM
Artini: Auction ~ In Your Face, February 19, 5:30-9 PM
Auction Pre-Party for Business Partners: February 21, 4-5 PM
37th Benefit Art Auction: February 21, 5 PM

Missoula, MT / November 17, 2008 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is honored to host the 37th Benefit Art Auction. This important benefit auction – Missoula's longest running – is critical for MAM to continue serving its 40,000 visitors each year. The juried exhibition will feature over 70 artists, including artists with regional careers and national reputations. The prestigious works are original and run the gamut of media, from ceramics and sculpture to paintings and photography. The exhibition includes work by nationally recognized artists like Nancy Erickson, Lela Autio, and Mark Abrahamson, plus regional favorites including Stephanie Frostad, Jeneese Hilton, and Doug Baldwin. Visit www.missoulaartmuseum.org on January 9 to view the artwork.

MAM will also feature the 4th Artini: Auction ~ In Your Face, on February 19. Prior to the auction, the Carnegie Galleries will be emptied to allow twelve artists to create art during this exciting new event. The Artini Committee and MAM seized this opportunity and asked a small number of artists to spend the day creating an original piece of art to be auctioned that night. The gallery will open as a studio beginning at 9 AM on February 19, giving each artist until 7 PM to complete an artwork that will go into a live auction. The event reception will begin at 5:30 PM, and guests will be allowed to explore the gallery and observe the artists at work. Participating artists include Brad Allen, Courtney Blazon, Elizabeth Dove, Dustin Hoon, Bob Phinney, Kerri Rosenstein, Stephanie Frostad, and Jonathan Marquis (artists known at the time of publication).

MAM's Art Auction Exhibition culminates with the 37th Benefit Art Auction on February 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn. For questions regarding the art auctions, to purchase tickets or to view art auction items go to www.missoulaartmuseum.org. Advance Tickets: \$70 MAM Members and \$80 Non-members. Tickets at the door: \$95.

Contact: For more information please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406-728-0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Stephen Glueckert, Exhibitions Curator, stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x226

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. MAM educates, challenges and inspires the community through contemporary art. MAM preserves our emerging cultural heritage through the development and conservation of its art collection. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11AM-5PM, Sunday, 12-4PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

MAM / 335 North Pattee, Missoula, MT 59802 / t: 406.728.0447 / missoulaartmuseum.org / museum@missoulaartmuseum.org