



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Haddon Hufford: Silversmith
November 4 - April 15, 2011 // Travel Montana Lobby
Artist's Reception: November 4, 5-8 PM
Artist's Gallery Talk: November 4, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / August 17, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is pleased to present *Haddon Hufford: Silversmith*. Haddon Hufford is a master silversmith practicing his craft near Frenchtown, MT. Though he has lived in the Missoula Valley since 2006, the Missoula Art Museum was unaware of this inimitable craftsman working within close proximity until Hufford submitted to the *Montana Triennial* in 2009. We are excited to present this intimate solo exhibition, *Haddon Hufford: Silversmith* at MAM and to introduce Hufford and his work to our visitors.

Hufford was born and raised in New York's Hudson River Valley. He studied graphic design at Parsons School of Design in Manhattan before serving in Vietnam as a combat cameraman in the Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division, 1969-71. Back in New York City, Hufford worked twenty-eight years in the film industry as a dolly and crane grip and set builder. His journey into metalsmithing began serendipitously on a trip through Argentina in 1996. In a small village on the Pampas, Hufford visited a silversmith's workshop and became fascinated with the ancient craft. Sterling is his metal of choice because of its inherent beauty and value but also because of the patience, it requires to master the skills for forming and forging the noble metal. Hufford says, "I know that the blow from the smith's hammer is directly related to the heart beat and rhythm of life itself. There are times in the solitude of my studio when hand and hammer become one and the repetition of the overlapping blows brings me to the point of meditation."

The exhibition features examples of variations on common, fine metal-smithed forms; letter openers, goblets, and vessels. Each hand-wrought piece that Hufford creates is original, he is proud to have never duplicated an object. Exploring these similar yet unique works displayed next to each other raises the awareness of the master silversmith's craftsmanship, artistic vision and skilled design that works in unison. The exhibition includes an example of a production piece, a machine built maquette of a large candelabra that Hufford designed on commission and his accompanying mechanical drawing of the piece. It is a wonderful example of the design that goes into such works. Also displayed are examples of the tools of the craft; specialized hammers, anvils, and metal working stakes – many of which are hand-made objects themselves.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact John Calsbeek, Assistant Curator, johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x229.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum strives to engage artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region. 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: Tuesday-Thursday, 10AM-5PM, Friday-Sunday, 10AM-3PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.