



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Ansel Adams: A Legacy Through April 15, 2012

Missoula, MT / January 9, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Missoula Art Museum is proud to host this definitive exhibition by one of America's most legendary photographers. The exhibition *Ansel Adams: A Legacy* consists of over 130 gelatin silver prints by the artist whom many consider an American master. *Ansel Adams: A Legacy* is a perfect fit for the programming at MAM, whose mission "strives to engage artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region."

The exhibition has proven to be extremely well attended, drawing over 10,000 visitors in the first eight weeks. Many of these visitors are setting foot in MAM for the first time, and many are surprised that the museum has hosted an artist of such national prominence and importance. They soon discover that hosting such exhibitions has been our programmatic practice since the origins of the institution. This practice of presenting an eclectic mix of exhibits to inform the dialogue around contemporary art of the region is critical planning the schedule.

The Ansel Adams exhibition has been a perfect fit for MAM's mission and message. Ansel Adams poetic vision of nature is a symbol of the junction between art and environmentalism, a notion close to home in Montana. Adams has married his craft with an intense love for the environment and his deeply rooted expressions are appreciated by our visitors. The exhibition has been a boon for attendance and has expanded MAM's educational programming with lectures, films, tours, and classes.

This private collection of Ansel Adams photographs is on loan courtesy of Thomas J. and Lynn M. Meredith. We are grateful for their faithful support, and applaud their advocacy for education and their commitment to continue to celebrate the legacy of this photographer. The exhibition served as the core education program for the Fifth Grade Art Experience, which has brought in over 1,500 fifth graders from Missoula and beyond. In its 25th year, this program is generously co-sponsored by the Art Associates of Missoula.

The selection of the Ansel Adams exhibit has solidified the institution and its courage to take risks, step up educational challenges and proudly believe in the role of contemporary arts in our lives.

MAM will never be an institution steeped in any one particular philosophy, practice, or person. It is independent. The hunger for culture by the museum leadership has been ceaseless and the vision for the museum to play a part in the cultural fabric of Missoula remains at the core of its identity.

New programming to encourage exploration of this unique exhibit.

TOURS

Take a tour of this special exhibition with a photographer or curator who has unique insight into the art and life of Ansel Adams. All tours are at 12 PM and are free.

Jan. 14 // Matt Hamon, UM School of Art Assistant Professor

Jan. 28 // Kurt Wilson, Missoulian Photo Editor

Feb. 11 // Eileen Rafferty, MFA Photography/Film

Feb. 25 // Neil Chaput de Saintonge, Technical Photography Tour, RMSP School Director

March 10 // Kathy Eyster, Digital Photography Instructor

March 24 // Michael Gallacher, Missoulian Photographer

April 14 // Lee Silliman, Photographer

MAM has added Sunday tours of the Ansel Adams Exhibit. Various MAM staff members will share their insights on Sundays at 12 PM. Tours will take place on: January 8, 15, 22, 29 // February 12, 19, 26 // March 4, 11, 18, 25 // April 1, 15

LECTURES

The next series of lectures on Ansel Adams focuses on his impact on other artists and their impact on him. All lectures begin at 7 PM and are free. Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain School of Photography.

Jan. 11 // *Beyond Ansel Adams* by Matt Hamon, UM School of Art Assistant Professor

Feb. 22 // *Ansel Adams: The Making of a Photograph* by Neil Chaput de Saintonge, RMSP School Director

March 21 // *Ansel Adams and his Contemporaries* by Ted Hughes, MAM Registrar

Closing Celebrations

April 14 & 15

Come to MAM for the closing weekend of *Ansel Adams: A Legacy*. There will be music on MAM's Yamaha Grand Piano, treats, and beverages for everyone. MAM will provide tours at 12 PM each day.

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. 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.