



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Special Events Planned for Multi-Media Video Exhibition at MAM *GOATSILK: Portraits From An Ark*

Exhibition: August 1 - September 29, 2007

MAM Member Preview: Wednesday, August 1, 6-8pm,
Q&A with Dr. Valerie Hedquist and Artists Bloch & Peters at 7pm

Opening Reception & Gallery Talk: First Friday, August 3, 5-8pm,
Talk with the artists at 7pm

Missoula, MT - July 17, 2007 - Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM announces the exhibition of *Portraits From An Ark*, a multi-media video installation by Goatsilk, the collaborative duo of Ben Bloch and Caroline Peters. Two special events kick off the exhibition, which will be on view from August 1 - September 29, 2007.

MAM's Member-only preview is Wednesday, August 1, 6-8pm and features a Q&A discussion with Dr. Valerie Hedquist, UM Professor of Art History and Criticism, and artists Bloch and Peters, visiting from Washington and Colorado respectively. MAM will host an opening reception for the public on First Friday, August 3, 5-8pm. The artists will present a special gallery talk on First Friday at 7pm.

Portraits From An Ark is a projected video artwork with a unique element of visitor participation: the video begins with the voice commands of gallery visitors. The artwork is comprised of 55 videos of different people with faces painted like animals and enacting the creatures using only their faces and heads. Visitors initiate the video by speaking an animal name. Using voice recognition software, the video plays the chosen animal video, and allows the viewer to partake in the work. A second video piece, *Edgers Are We*, will be on view also, showing the team's experimental work with digital video and the Internet.

Ben Bloch teaches digital media at Whitman College; Caroline Peters is Assistant Professor of Art at Colorado State University. Bloch and Peters began their collaborative partnership while in graduate school at the University of Montana. Bloch and Peters opened Goatsilk Gallery in Missoula in 2002 and immediately challenged and excited gallery goers with video installations, art actions and performances.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM's exhibitions showcase diverse and thought-provoking work from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri, 11am-6pm, until 7pm Thurs, Sat, 10am-3pm. *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.*

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