



For Immediate Release

Gaylen Hansen: Three Decades of Paintings Scheduled at Missoula Art Museum

Exhibition Dates: June 13 – August 23, 2008

Members Only Preview Party: June 12, 6-8 pm

Gallery Talk: Exhibition Curator Keith Wells and WSU Museum of Art Director Chris Bruce, June 12, 7 pm

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk, Artini: July 17, 7 pm

Missoula, MT / May 20, 2008/Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is pleased to present, *Gaylen Hansen: Three Decades of Paintings*, June 13 – August 23. Organized by Washington State University Museum of Art Curator, Keith Wells, the exhibit is a 30-year retrospective of paintings by Palouse, Washington-based painter, Gaylen Hansen. Hansen, a WSU Fine Arts professor emeritus, has exhibited his paintings in New York, Berlin, Singapore, Beijing, Los Angeles, Seattle and other cities in the United States. He is the recipient of a 1989 Governor's Award from the State of Washington and a 2001 Flintridge Foundation Visual Arts Award. This is Hansen's first major exhibition in Montana.

Missoula Art Museum Curator Stephen Glueckert says, "We are proud to host this traveling exhibition by an artist for whom we have the utmost respect. We are a small institution so the opportunity to feature work by an artist who has such far reaching influence is in itself gratifying. Hansen's influence is widespread, and his aesthetic voice consistent. He has pursued his discipline as a painter for thirty years, and the exhibition demonstrates a determination and fortitude that is seldom matched."

Keith Wells says the exhibit traces Hansen's evolution as an artist. "From his tenderly rendered narrative paintings of the 1970's, to his bolder canvases in which his palette has become more vibrant, the compositions more complex, and the imagery more iconic – it's all represented in the exhibit."

WSU Museum of Art Director, Chris Bruce says, "Hansen has lived in rural Eastern Washington since 1957 when he joined the faculty of Washington State College, and yet his paintings have been seen all over the world. Still, he remains an under-recognized artist of vast talent and emotional range, who follows a deeply American expressive and eccentric tradition of artists such as Red Grooms, H.C. Westermann and Philip Guston. He has created that most difficult of all artistic accomplishments - combining a serious, edgy painting style with humor and personal narratives that allow both art connoisseurs and every day folk to enjoy and appreciate his art."

Hansen, 86, says he chronicles what amuses and interests him most: fly fishing, his surrounding rural land, the animals that populate that land and his environmental concerns. A review in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* says Hansen "paints the human comedy as if it's coming to a close." Born and raised on his grandparent's farm in Utah, Hansen attended Otis Art Institute in

Los Angeles, Utah State University, the Art Barn School of Fine Arts and the Salt Lake City Art Center. In 1953, he earned an MFA degree from the University of Southern California.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color book produced by Marquand Books of Seattle and includes: introduction by WSU Museum of Art Director Chris Bruce; text by WSU Museum of Art Curator, Keith Wells; Hansen's own commentaries in conversation with Wells on more than 20 individual paintings; a tribute to Hansen by cartoonist and fellow artist, Gary Larson; a chronology highlighting important events and persons in the artist's life and more than 100 color plates.

WSU's funding for this exhibit and programs are provided by the Robert Lehman Foundation, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation and the Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Arts Endowment. Additional funding is provided by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Paul and Nancy Winklesky, the Friends of the Museum of Art, the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture and the Washington State Arts Commission.

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, Curator of Exhibitions, 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-Friday 11AM-5PM and Saturday 10AM-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.