



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **KATE HUNT: RECENT WORKS**

September 12, 2014 - February 21, 2015

Art Guide Training: Kate Hunt, September 10, 3 PM

Members' Preview: September 10, 5-7 PM

Artists' Reception: December 5, 5-8 PM

Artists' Gallery Talk: December 5, 7 PM

Artists' Discussion: Kate Hunt and Pat Zentz, December 6, 1 PM

Missoula, MT / August 28, 2014 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is thrilled to share this exhibit of work by one of the West's most important and innovative artists: Kate Hunt. Hunt has mastered transforming an everyday material that is usually used once then discarded into a powerful medium. She uses newspaper to create formally and conceptually strong sculptural works of varied shape, thought provoking content, and strange beauty.

This exhibition is full of surprises. These recent works are easily recognizable as Hunt's because of her signature method of working with newspaper, for she has long used it as a sculptural medium. These new works, however, include strong formal sensibilities incorporating both the walls and floors. The central work in the exhibition is entitled Floor and incorporates an assembly of more than 30 columns arranged in a repetitive fashion on the floor. The sheer number of pieces in the center of the Carnegie Gallery demands attention. This large sculpture is in reality an installation.

Initially, the viewer brings with them a preconceived notion that newspaper should be recycled and is fragile and disposable. But one of the powerful messages manifested by Hunt in this exhibit is the idea that newspaper is strong, durable, and resists decomposition. There is a sense of discovery in uncovering the human energy and ingenuity in the construction of her work.

There is an influence of minimalism present in Hunt's work. Minimalism, or what some people refer to as reductivism, is an aesthetic where the artist reduces the expression to the bare essential design elements. Her strong formal sensibilities invite us to explore, and the resulting work speaks to the resilience of what we, at one time, perceived as fragile and come to see as tough. While there is no representational narrative in her work, newspaper becomes a sculptural material; paper assembled in a repetitive fashion becomes durable and powerfully expressive, and the layering in her work mimics nature. We instinctively know that where there is sedimentation there is a record.

Hunt is driven by the clarity with which she understands her materials. She is ingenious in marrying skills. She is an artist who brings together the skills of a print shop trimmer, drill press operator, metal fabricator, and construction worker. She paints, draws, and fabricates. She has a very strong drive and direction and knows exactly where she wants to arrive. Included in the exhibition are two drawings of goats, each a companion in her creative journey.

While this might seem incongruous, they are included as part of a way to more completely understand and appreciate the artist, her life, and her life's work where all ideas swirl around in the creative process.

Today Kate Hunt lives and maintains a studio in Creston, MT. She received a BFA from Kansas City Art Institute and a MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI. She has had many solo exhibitions in venues throughout the country, including Portland Art Museum; Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY; Leedy-Voukos Art Center, Kansas City, MO; Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT; and in years past MAM. She has been the recipient of a Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Award, and an Adolf and Esther Gottlieb Individual Support Grant. Her work is included in numerous collections, including Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Yellowstone Art Museum, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, and the Missoula Art Museum.

MAM is grateful to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Art Associates of Missoula, and the Missoulian for their support and sponsorship of this exhibition. This exhibition will serve as the educational base for the Fifth Grade Art Experience.

Missoula Art Museum would like to thank the Missoula County Commissioners for generously granting permission to display these important pieces of public art as Missoula celebrates its 150th birthday.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at [www.missoulaartmuseum.org](http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org) or contact Ted Hughes, Registrar, [ted@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:ted@missoulaartmuseum.org), 406.728.0447 x222.

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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- Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.