



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

James Lavadour: Horse Stories

February 15 - May 25, 2012

First Friday Artist's Reception: April 6, 5-8 PM

Artist's Gallery Talk: April 6, 7 PM

Tour and Reception: James Lavadour and Raphael Chacón,
April 7, 1 PM

Missoula, MT / January 9, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is delighted to host *James Lavadour: Horse Stories*, one of the region's most celebrated and respected artists. James Lavadour was born in Pendleton, OR in 1951. Today, he lives and works on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where he is artistic advisor to the Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts. Lavadour has been described as a self taught painter, but the works featured in this exhibition speak more than ever to a mature, savvy, driven and hard working contemporary artist. The paintings featured are Lavadour's first ever Montana exhibition.

The exhibition includes three large works, all oil on panels including, *Deep Moon*, from 2005 (on loan from Jordan D. Schnitzer), *Hollow*, from 2007, and finally the most recent work *Straight Ahead* from 2010. By featuring these three works viewers will experience both a progression and a consistency, and a collected assembly of works and actions. By placing one panel next to another, the artist composes a complex experience with intense earthy colors and sensitivity to the organic properties of paint itself. Standing close one is exposed to the physicality and actions of the artist at work, stepping back, you realize that the panels allow the elements to work together in a more complex experience.

Lavadour's father Joseph came from a Native family with many branches including French Canadian, Chinook, Walla Walla, and Assiniboine Sioux – and his mother Colleen, is of German-Irish descent. However, Lavadour is quick to point out that he is not a traditionalist, nor working out of a specific cultural tradition, nor does his work specifically reference his Native American heritage. His work is most directly about painting, his desire to paint and the process driven imagery that evolves through the action of painting.

Lavadour's work is included in the permanent collection of institutions such as Boise Art Museum, King County Arts Commission in Seattle, Tacoma Art Museum, the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ; and the Portland Art Museum.

The exhibition will be in the Lynda M. Frost Contemporary American Indian Art Gallery. This gallery is dedicated to honor the creative cultural contributions of American Indian people to contemporary art, and to insure that Indian artists will always have a place to celebrate that contribution.

MAM would like to thank Jordan Schnitzer for the loan of *Deep Moon*, and Jane Bebe and the PDX Contemporary Art Gallery of Portland, OR for being an advocate for James Lavadour, and helping organize this important exhibition.

James Lavadour: Horse Stories is sponsored in part by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

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.