



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## Marilyn Lysohir: Good Girls 1968

March 5 - May 30, 2010

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk: March 5, 5-8 pm

Missoula, MT / January 4, 2010/ Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / *Good Girls 1968* is an installation that consists of over 160 ceramic portraits of young women with whom Marilyn Lysohir graduated from high school. The installation involved reconnecting through hours on the phone with many of the girls captured in the portraits. Lysohir is a renowned ceramicist and although *Good Girls 1968* is grounded and created from one person's point of view, this exhibition transcends the personal and discovers its impact while touching the audience's cultural memory and reminiscences.

Like many of Lysohir's ceramic works, her disciplined research paid off. In August of 2008, Lysohir installed these ceramic portraits at her high school in Sharon, PA for her 40th class reunion. Many of the "girls" came to the opening and Lysohir had the opportunity to share memories and revisit the past.

The 1960's was a period of great change in U.S. history. In particular, 1968 marked a year that many consider a pinnacle of cultural revolution and turmoil in the United States. That year saw America embroiled in Vietnam with both the Tet Offensive and the My Lai massacre, the capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo, George Wallace's third party candidacy, vocalization about the use of nuclear weapons, the release of the Beatles' White Album, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Andy Warhol being shot, Walter Cronkite openly criticize the U.S. Policy in Vietnam, the musical Hair open in London, Robert Kennedy's campaign and assassination, Chicago's police crack down at the Democratic Convention, the Mexico City Riots, Women's Liberation movement and "bra-burning", the launch of Apollo 7 and Apollo 8, the black power salute at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Jacqueline Kennedy marry Aristotle Onassis, the U.S. repeal the Gold Standard, Rowen and Martin's Laugh-In air, student protests intensify, the U.S. Scorpion Nuclear Submarine sink with 99 men on board, the United Auto Workers separate from the AFL CIO, Ringo Starr quit The Beatles, and Richard Nixon rise to power and his election to President. Layered on top of all of these events were the changing attitudes associated with religion, sex, marriage, and drug use. In so many ways, 1968 served as a watershed year when a heavy dose of realism thrust a dagger into the heart of a fairy tale past. There was no turning back after 1968, and the collective cultural conscience of the country was never the same.

While Lysohir captures a snap shot in her life, we soon discover that these faces transcend Sharon, PA and capture a time when many cultural doors closed and others opened. The nature of the work touches each of us through the association of our own reunions, reminiscences, memories, and acceptances of those doors both opened and closed.

Lysohir states, “My work is inspired by my family and my friends and the working class milieu in which I grew up. When I begin a piece I start with a personal idea – such as the death of my grandmother or my father surviving World War II, and then this idea evolves into a formal composition which usually takes me a long time to work out.... So for me, as an artist, any piece is about communication and memory, and documenting the journey upon which all humans embark...from birth to death.”

Lysohir lives and works in Moscow, ID and has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art at Washington State University and is co-owner of Cowgirl Chocolates. She has exhibited throughout the United States and has been an Artist in Residence and Visiting Artist at the Kohler Foundation, Kansas City Art Institute, and Kent State University.

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 Stephen Glueckert, Exhibitions Curator, [stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto: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: Wed-Fri, 10AM-5PM, Sat, 10AM-3PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

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