



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## Missoula Art Museum's 2009 Montana Triennial June 26 - September 24, 2009

Artists Reception and Gallery Talk with Juror Beth Sellars: June 26,  
5-7 PM

Members Only Gallery Talk with Beth Sellars: June 27, 1-2:30 PM

Artini: Triennial, July 16, 5:30-9 PM

Artists' Gallery Talk: August 7, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / April 9, 2009 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is pleased to present the Missoula Art Museum's first ever Montana Triennial.

Biennials and triennials around the world are intended to function as survey exhibitions of contemporary art that represent the cutting edge art created in a particular region, with works typically chosen by a respected juror or panel of jurors from outside the region. Montana and its cultural institutions have never attempted to host such an all-encompassing exhibition before, but following the reopening of the extensively renovated museum in September 2006, MAM felt uniquely positioned to host this significant regional survey within the new galleries.

Missoula Art Museum's first Montana Triennial will be hosted at MAM from June 26 to September 24, 2009. This important juried exhibition will feature the artwork of emerging and established professional artists living and working in the state of Montana. MAM's Montana Triennial will consist of 88 works created by 60 artists, and will represent a full range of media, style, and theme. In honor of the exhibition, MAM will publish a full-color, documentary catalogue featuring the exhibiting artists, their work, and an interpretive essay by MT Triennial juror Beth Sellars.

Beth Sellars is curator of Suyama Space in Seattle, WA, which has featured some of the most avant-garde installation work in the Northwest. For many years prior, she was Curator of Art at Cheney Cowles Museum in Spokane, WA.

Sellars remarked:

"I am honored to have been asked to jury the Montana Triennial for the Missoula Art Museum. The juried art format is in some ways one of the most important exhibitions a regional museum can sponsor. It acknowledges, validates, and provides exposure for the artists of its region and offers museum visitors an assessment of the wealth of talent living and working in their midst. The format also provides the sponsoring museum an opportunity to discover new talent as well as acknowledge artists who they know and respect.

Inviting an out-of-the-region juror to review MAM's Montana Triennial submissions affords the process a fresh eye; an uncompromised perspective into the large selection of work produced by Montana artists. In making my selections, I 'blind juried' the first several rounds, considering only the quality of work under review. After narrowing the selections down to an acceptable number, I reviewed the artists' statements and resumes, and finally, in an effort to give statewide representation, I checked the location of the artists' residence. The end result is visually diverse, as juried exhibitions are wont to be. But there are some definite threads running through the exhibition, clearly identifying it with work created by artists who choose to live in the magnificent beauty of Montana."

Sellers will present a Juror's Talk at MAM on Friday, June 26, 6 PM that will focus on the MAM MT Triennial art and artists and a MAM Members' Gallery Talk on Saturday, June 27, 1-2:30 PM that will focus upon selected exhibitions she has curated at Suyama Space and Cheney Cowles Museum.

Missoula Art Museum's Montana Triennial project is generously supported with grants from the Montana Cultural Trust.

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 or John Calsbeek, Assistant Curator and Preparator, [johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org), 406.728.0447 x229.

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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: Wednesday 12-8PM, Thursday-Sunday 12-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

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