



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Missoula Art Museum Presents New Gogas

Exhibition Dates: December 7, 2007 – February 7, 2008

Missoula, MT / October 25, 2007 / Artist Gallery Talk – December 7, 7PM / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is honored to host a series of recently completed paintings by George Gogas. The exhibition shows a definite change in creative direction for this established regional art demonstrating Gogas' discipline and, importantly his versatility. Over his more than 50-year career Gogas has covered many styles of drawing and painting, and has never shied away from experimenting. In this new series, Gogas has remained loose, lucid, reflexive, and intensely focused on the painting that has sustained him over the years.

MAM featured his *Charlie and Pablo* series in 1994 and sponsored its travel throughout the state of Montana the following two years. His retrospective in 2002 was hosted by The University of Montana which surveyed all of these earlier explorations. While this exhibition includes the 1987 *Judith Basin Encounter: When Charlie Met Pablo on the Open Range*, (from the MAM Collection) this new body of work is different. Gone are the direct references to Russell's narratives. The only story that exists in the paintings is about painting itself, and the result is a tight, consistent body of work. Gogas describes his work, "Modernist painting is considered by many critics as being out of fashion, with little left to say. In fact, since the 1970's some have repeatedly claimed that painting is dead! I think it is alive and well! There is neither symbolism nor narrative in the Band paintings. Arranging visual elements according to their personal aesthetic is the objective. If there is a message it is my hope that placing pigment on a flat surface remains a meaningful human activity for a long, long time."

Gogas will give an artist gallery talk during First Friday Art Walk, December 7 at 7 pm. The exhibition and gallery talk are free to the public during the Reception from 6-8 pm., 5-6 pm for MAM members only.

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-Fri, 11AM-6PM, Sat, 10AM-3PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

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