



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Neil Chaput De Saintonge and Keith Graham Chasing Time: Montana's One-Room Schools

July 2 - September 19, 2015

Artists' Reception: August 7, 5-8 PM

Artists' Gallery Talk: August 7, 7 PM

Saturday + Neil Chaput and Keith Graham, August 8, 10 AM-12 PM

Missoula, MT / April 20, 2015 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Across the United States, there are fewer than 200 one-room school houses in operation. Montana is home to approximately 75 of them — more than any other state. Neil Chaput and Keith Graham travelled to one-third of the Montana schools in 2013/2014 to meet the teachers and students and to document their experiences. This MAM exhibition comprises 35 photographs that were curated from more than 200 images shot by Chaput and Graham. The resulting photo essay depicts the story of the one-room school in rural America. Through the photographic portrayal of various schools in different locations across Montana, shared themes emerge and tell a singular narrative.

The focus of this exhibition is on the basic daily school activities of classwork and the relationships between these dedicated teachers and their pupils. Many of the schools serve only five to eight students, and one of the schools has a total enrollment of one girl. Chaput's ability to candidly capture intimate moments shines light on the special bond between teacher and student in these unique schools. As expected, the schoolhouses are scattered across the rural expanses of the state. From the forested mountains of Yaak to the rolling grasslands of remote Carter County, Montana's one-room schools serve the most remote populations of the state. The images of the schoolhouses on the Montana landscape put the geographic isolation into perspective.

Neil Chaput founded Rocky Mountain School of Photography with his wife Jeanne in Missoula in 1989, and he has been teaching photography for more than 40 years. Keith Graham joined the faculty at The University of Montana's School of Journalism in 1998 and is an associate professor of photojournalism. The two are working on editing their project into a book. Graham is also working on a documentary featuring his video and the photography he and Chaput shot during the project. MAM will sponsor this exhibition to travel the state through MAGDA, a statewide nonprofit arts organization.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact John Calsbeek, Assistant Curator & Preparator, johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x223.

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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.