



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Persistence in Clay: Contemporary Ceramics in Montana

June 3 - September 10, 2011 // Carnegie Galleries and Faith
Pickton & Josephine Aresty Gallery

June 3, 5-8 PM // Exhibition Opening and Artists'
Reception: Music by Salsa Loca & beer garden by Flathead
Lake Brewing Co. of Missoula

June 3, 7 PM // Artists' Gallery Talk: Julia Galloway and
Beth Lo

Missoula, MT / April 20, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is excited to present *Persistence in Clay: Contemporary Ceramics in Montana*. While many regions of the country are known for their mastery of other mediums, in Montana, the ceramic arts are the touchstone of art and culture. This exhibition serves as a snap shot of the world class activity that is happening today in the state. The exhibition coincides with the Archie Bray Foundation's 60th birthday and is intended to celebrate not only this milestone birthday, but the long-lived strength of the clay medium in the state of Montana. The professional artists in this exhibit are a selection of the many clay artists who are currently recognized leaders in their communities.

Since the 1940s the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts has had a tremendous impact on the region. The first two residents were Rudy Autio and Peter Voulkos, who in turn had a profound influence on the American Crafts-as-Art movement, and subsequent attitudes about American ceramics. "Rudy" and "Pete," as they are known regionally, left a rich and growing legacy in the ceramic arts.

The legacy has been passed on and is demonstrated by the nineteen dedicated ceramic artists participating in this traveling exhibition. The featured artists include: Dean Adams, Adrian Arleo, Steve Braun, Josh DeWeese, Hannah Fisher, Shanna Fliegel, Julia Galloway, Robert Harrison, Trey Hill, David Hiltner, Steve Lee, Beth Lo, Richard Notkin, David Regan, Alison Reintjes, David Smith, Sarah Jaeger, Tara Wilson and Rosie Wynkoop. Although these artists reflect a variety of styles and approaches, they have all invested in this place, demonstrated an intense professional focus in the clay medium, and are practicing within their communities to help perpetuate the legacy of clay in Montana.

Though working in Montana, many of these artists rarely exhibit within the state relying instead on commercial support and attention from galleries and collectors outside the region. Drawing these artists together celebrates the local connection to the communities they call home and provides an educational platform to affirm their creative contributions.

It should be noted that this select group of artists is not exclusive, for this exhibition could easily be tripled in size with ceramic artists who are equally vital and competent. This profound fact speaks to the strength of the clay medium in the state and the legacy of the pioneers who laid the groundwork for the generations of clay artists to come.

Thanks to the support of the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), MAM will tour this exhibition regionally to the Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY and the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, Baker, OR. The exhibition is funded through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, WESTAF, and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

Exhibition Catalog

Persistence in Clay: Contemporary Ceramics in Montana is a 100 page exhibition catalog with essays by UM Professor and art historian Dr. H. Rafael Chacón, MAM Exhibitions Curator Stephen Glueckert, and noted scholar and essayist Rick Newby. The book also contains biographies and photos highlighting the 19 exhibiting artist and a CD containing interviews with the artists in their studios. This publication was made possible with support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. Publication date: June 3.

Persistence in Clay: Contemporary Ceramics in Montana Travels to:

Nicolaysen Art Museum // Casper, WY // Spring 2012

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center // Baker, OR // Summer 2012

Persistence in Clay on the Web

An interactive web component, created by web designer and filmmaker Geoff Pepos, accompanies this exhibition. It features interviews with the artists in their studios and more.

Additional Persistence in Clay Events:

June 4, 12 PM: Exhibition Tour with Beth Lo // 1 PM: Film Screening with Geoff Pepos // 3 PM: *Persistence in Clay* Artists' Panel: Moderator Trey Hill, Panelists: Sarah Jaeger, Julia Galloway, Richard Notkin, Robert Harrison. MAMbers who attend the panel will receive one free *Persistence of Clay* catalog (one per membership).

June 11, 11 AM - 12:30 PM // Saturday Family Art Workshop: Clay Play

June 15, 6-8:30 PM // Modeling the Figure in Clay: Beth Lo

June 25, 12 PM // *Persistence in Clay* Tour: Alison Reintjes

July 23, 11 AM – 2:30 PM // Clay Day

July 23, 12 PM // *Persistence in Clay* Tour: David Scott Smith

September 8 // Contemporary Ceramics Discussion: Authors Rafael Chacón, Steve Glueckert, and Rick Newby

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