



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ELK DOGS October 8, 2008 - February 21, 2009 Artists Gallery Talk and Reception: December 5, 5-8 pm Program Screening, Montana Artists: December 14, 2 pm

Missoula, MT / September 2, 2008/ Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / *Elk Dogs* is focused on contemporary horse imagery created by contemporary American Indian artists. The exhibition will feature invited artists Damian Charette (Crow), Jeneese Hilton (Blackfeet) and Jay Laber (Blackfeet), as well as selected works from MAM's Contemporary American Indian Art Collection including Susan Stewart (Crow), and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Flathead Salish/Shoshone/Cree). The exhibition will also accentuate the recently published book by The Nicolaysen Art Museum, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's, *She Paints The Horse*, which is available in the MAM bookstore.

The name "Elk Dog" comes from well-documented references originating in many Indian languages. The term Elk Dog was widespread through the Native American population as noted in the Lewis and Clark journals. The term seems to be a logical combination of the traits of the two animals. The horse was the size of an elk but used for carrying goods as well—a role dogs also fulfilled in the Native American culture.

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, Curator of Exhibitions, stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x226

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

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