



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Sara Siestream: BALLAST**

*September 6 - January 26, 2014 // Lynda M. Frost Contemporary  
American Indian Art Gallery*

**Members' Event: Meet the Artist, September 5, 5-6 PM**

**Artist Reception: September 6, 5-9 PM**

**Gallery Talk: September 6, 7 PM**

**Artist Tour, September 7, 12 PM**

**For Educators: How to Look at Indian Art, September 30, 12-3:30 PM**

Missoula, MT / August 13, 2013 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is honored to host this exhibition of paintings by Portland, OR artist Sara Siestream. Siestream creates abstract paintings through a process which incorporates color field painting, automatic drawing, and incorporation of symbology. While these approaches may overlap, the consistency she achieves is remarkable, producing one resolved composition after another. The over 20 abstract works selected for her first solo museum exhibition reflect a maturity that has drawn attention to her career.

The arts are practiced and appreciated by all members of Siestream's family and are an everyday part of family life. This family sharing has deeply influenced her as she describes the different work that her parents, grandparents, and aunts have shared and whose practice has inspired her. She acknowledges this creative imprinting as a "gift", however, Siestream's work has a uniqueness to it that is all her own. Her background, instincts, and knowledge paired with the act of painting and savvy titles work together to create her unique language.

Siestream's approach is based in the observation of nature. Through observation the artist realizes the interconnectedness of nature and expression through patterns and repetition. She states, "My painting practice is a meditation, focused in to memory and reserves of calm and quiet. My intention for the viewer is that the paintings are vehicles for transportation into and out of themselves. My hope is that in the same way we as animals receive an energetic charge from witnessing the land or other animals or any type of event, so will these collections of my own process be able to affect the viewer."

Siestream received a BS from Portland State University and an MFA from Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn, NY and is represented by the Augen Gallery in Portland, OR. Siestream is from the Pacific Northwest and is an enrolled member of the Coos Tribe of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Suislaw Indians. The exhibition is hosted in the Lynda M. Frost Contemporary American Indian Art Gallery, a gallery dedicated to honoring the creative cultural contributions of American Indian people to contemporary art, and to ensure that Indian artists will always have a place to celebrate that contribution.

The exhibition is supported through the generosity of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. MAM would also like to thank the artist and the Augen Gallery who have worked diligently to assemble this exhibition.

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.

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