



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## **Teresa Tamura - Made in Minidoka: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans in Idaho**

October 2 - December 31, 2009

Artist Reception: October 2, 5-8 PM

Festival of the Book Panel Discussion: Teresa Tamura, Diane Sands, and Carol Van Valkenberg, October 23, 4 PM

Missoula, MT / September 3, 2009/ Missoula Art Museum (MAM) /This exhibition features a selection of photographs from the larger body of work Tamura has generated over the past decade. Tamura, the daughter of second generation Japanese Americans, was born and raised in Nampa, Idaho, a small town just a two hour drive from the remnants of the Minidoka Relocation Center. Though growing up in Idaho, in such close proximity, she was never told of the internment camp; first learning of Minidoka in 1978, in journalism school, at Idaho State University.

In 2001, Tamura heard artist Roger Shimomura lecture about his paintings based on the journals his grandmother kept while interned at Minidoka. Tamura, like Shimomura, was inspired to depict a sense of the place and the life of internment at Minidoka. Her images, captured on black and white infrared film, accentuate the stark landscape and architectural remains of the camp while lending a timeless quality to the photographs. The present day portraits of internees are honest and human. Tamura's eye for composition, honed over twenty years as a photojournalist, unites her unique photographic vision with persistent honesty that is both personal and universal.

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 John Calsbeek, Assistant Curator and Preparator, [johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:johnc@missoulaartmuseum.org), 406.728.0447 x229.

- END -

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