



MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

Poet Heather Cahoon to Read Coyote Stories at Missoula Art Museum

Thursday, February 16, 2017, 5:30-7:30 PM

Missoula, MT / February 9, 2017 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) – In conjunction with the multi-layered interactive exhibition, *Resistance* by Seattle-based artist RYAN! Feddersen (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), renowned local poet Heather Cahoon (Pend d'Oreille) will read from her recent series of poems that speak of Coyote's children. These poems rediscover Salish and Pend d'Oreille stories and probe the role that language revitalization plays in passing on culture to the next generation.

Cahoon is an artist, poet, adjunct professor of Native American Studies, UM; and State-Tribal Policy Analyst for the MT Budget and Policy Center. She grew up in St. Ignatius, Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation. She holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Montana and was the recipient of the 2000 Richard Hugo Memorial Scholarship and the 2005 Merriam Frontier Award for publication of her book, *Elk Thirst*. She also holds an interdisciplinary PhD in history, anthropology, and Native American Studies. This reading is free and appropriate for all ages.

RYAN! Feddersen has created a unique art practice that often involves getting people who visit her exhibits to actively participate in the process of creating the art works she makes while they reflect on what that work means. For this exhibition she has created four interactive installations that address equitable development and resource use: *Unveiling the Romantic West*; *Disconnected Towers*; *Coyote Now!*; and *Martha Stewart Cocktails*. Her exhibition is supported by a grant from the Warhol Foundation.

Feddersen will later join Julie Cajune at MAM for an artist discussion on Saturday, March 4. Julie Cajune (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) is an educator, playwright, and historian who has worked on culturally responsive educational materials for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian, and the Montana Historical Society. Cajune was named by Utne Reader in 2009 as one of "50 visionaries changing your world" and was a recipient of the 2011 Montana Governor's Humanities Award.

RYAN! Feddersen: *Resistance*

Exhibition dates at MAM: December 16, 2016 - April 22, 2017

Related Events:

[Coyote's Children and New Poems by Heather Cahoon](#): Thursday, February 16, 5:30-7:30 PM

First Friday: March 3, 5-8PM, Tour the Paxson Murals at 4 PM, Gallery Talk at 7 PM

Saturday+ Artist Talk with Julie Cajune: March 4, 11AM

Flagged Burden Baskets Workshop with RYAN! Feddersen: March 4, 1PM-4PM

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Brandon Reintjes, Senior Curator, brandon@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x230.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION // FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum engages 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.