



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

# MAM's 41st Benefit Art Auction Exhibition

January 4-30, 2013

Exhibition Opening: January 4, 5-8 PM

Artists' Reception and Gallery Talks: January 4, 7 PM

New this Year! Silent Auction Bidding Open at MAM: January 4, 5 PM

41st Benefit Art Auction: February 2, 5 PM

Missoula, MT / December 3, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM's 41st Benefit Art Auction will be held at the UC Ballroom on The University of Montana campus Saturday, February 2, 2013, and will be co-hosted by UM President Royce and Mary Engstrom. This year's theme, ARTISTS COLOR OUR WORLD, reflects the many ways artists shape us and our world. Artists and their artwork help to define societies, outline aspirations, and show us ways of seeing the world. Dress in your favorite colorful attire and help MAM celebrate the many artists that color our world! Enjoy an evening of extraordinary art in the live and silent auctions, incredible non-art live auction items from Equity Estates and PLONK, and one-of-a-kind raffle packages.

This year's auction is larger in every way than auctions of the past several years. With the larger space in the UC Ballroom we will comfortably accommodate more artists and guests. The Auction Committee jury had leeway to increase the total number of artworks. MAM is excited to feature 110 artworks in this year's exhibition and auction. The artists presented this year embody a wide spectrum of styles and media while hailing from near and far. Included are perennial local favorites like George Gogas, Stephanie Frostad, and Nancy Erickson; emerging regional gems such as Alison Reintjes, Matt Hamon, and Jennifer Pulchinski; nationally recognized artists Francis Fox, Don Voisine, Kevin Red Star and two hand-colored wood cuts from our late, dear friend Rudy Autio will be featured. The 2013 Art Auction Exhibition opens on January 4, 2013 with a First Friday reception from 5-8pm to honor participating artists and preview the art. The exhibition remains on view through January 30.

To accommodate the increased number of artworks MAM has worked hard to improve the Silent Auction format not only by increasing the number of works and diversifying the selection but also by allowing bidding in the gallery during the exhibition. The 36 Silent Auction works encompass a varied mix of artists and artworks with opening bids below \$425, and the majority well below that. This selection of works offers an incredible opportunity for new collectors to purchase artwork from some of the best contemporary artists in our state and region. And perhaps best of all for those that do not attend the event, bidding will be taken in house through January 30 and

the top bids will carry over to the event. Bidders need not be present to win. MAM is excited to offer this approach to improve accessibility of collecting art through the fun and exciting auction format.

As MAM's largest fundraiser of the year, the Auction provides critical sustenance for MAM's contemporary art exhibitions and educational programming, while offering FREE Admission.

Tickets are on sale now and going fast! Ticket and table purchase deadline is January 18, 5 PM. Purchase tickets/tables by calling 728.0447 or online at [missoulaartmuseum.org](http://missoulaartmuseum.org). For complete information on non-art live auction items and raffles, visit [missoulaartmuseum.org](http://missoulaartmuseum.org).

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- Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM, Saturday-Sunday, 12-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.