



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

John Armstrong: Engaged Abstraction and Prior-Armstrong Studio February 6 - May 23, 2009 Artist Reception and Gallery Talk: February 6, with John Armstrong, 5-8 PM

Missoula, MT / June 17, 2008 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / John Armstrong has demonstrated mastery over many skills spanning the years. MAM is proud to host two separate exhibitions by this artist and master printer. The first exhibition *John Armstrong: Engaged Abstraction* accentuates Armstrong's recent works, current vision, and practice. The second exhibition *Prints from the Armstrong-Prior Studio* accentuates Armstrong's skills as a master printer and trusted collaborator. While the two exhibitions are related and accentuate Armstrong's passion and strength as a printmaker, they have a significantly different feel and presence.

John Armstrong: Engaged Abstraction

Recent works by Master Printer John Armstrong highlight his strengths as an artist and printmaker. The twenty-one works to be featured in this solo exhibition were selected from Armstrong's recent body of works by MAM's Exhibitions Curator Stephen Glueckert. These works bring to the forefront the artist's sensitivity, intuitive color sense, consistent instinct for compositional resolution, and ever present spirit of experimentation. Raised in Laurel, MT, with nine siblings, Armstrong has worn many hats in the art world, both inside and outside of Montana. In addition to being a professional artist, he has been an arts administrator, art educator, small businessman, museum board member, press manufacturer, master printer, artist facilitator, designer, installer, and collaborator. His renaissance approach to the art world is rare in this time of specialization. The exhibition will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue highlighting an artist interview.

Prints from the Armstrong-Prior Studio

This extensive selection of prints features over forty-five works by different internationally acclaimed artists who have used the Armstrong-Prior Print workshop in Phoenix, Arizona, and have relied heavily on John Armstrong's expertise in producing this work. Armstrong's collaborative approach to printmaking is one of the characteristics present in the Armstrong-Prior Inc. Archives. The works were selected from the Archives by MAM's Exhibitions Curator Stephen Glueckert and include works by Rudy Autio, Philip Curtis, Dorothy Fratt, Karen Jilly, Virgil Ortiz, Vernon Patrick, Akio Takamori, and Patti Warashina.

Meet John Armstrong on February 6, at 7 PM when he delivers an insightful gallery talk about artists and printing.

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

- 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: Tues-Sat, 11AM-5PM, Sunday, 12-4PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

MAM / 335 North Pattee, Missoula, MT 59802 / t: 406.728.0447 / missoulaartmuseum.org / museum@missoulaartmuseum.org