



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

# Big Sky High School Art Club Exhibition

May 1 - 29, 2011

Artists' Reception: May 6, 5-8 pm

Gallery Talk: Dustin Hoon, May 6, 7 pm

Missoula, MT / May 10, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Every year MAM invites a local high school art class and art club to assemble an exhibition of their own artwork, selected with the help of their art teachers or MAM curators. Work is selected based on a high level of skill and innovation, as well as the measure of significance to the student.

This year MAM Education Curator Renée Taaffe asked Dustin Hoon, art teacher and Art Club coordinator at Big Sky High School, to arrange this exhibition. To familiarize themselves with the art museum and with what it takes to mount an exhibition, the art students visited the museum to view the exhibit space and review the formalities of presentation, labeling, and artist statements. Once back at the school, the students continued to create art and make final selections. Hoon has this to say about the project:

"This project promotes a visual dialogue between a public high school, the museum and the community. This cooperative endeavor yields a meaningful product for Big Sky students while giving them a small sense of the more conceptual aspects of preparing for an exhibition. These students work with me or Dan DeGrandpre, another Big Sky art teacher, in exploring the world of visual art. Process and technique tend to dominate the collection, as students are drawn naturally to investigate various media and technical methods at this stage, as can be seen in the eclectic composition of the show. Expression is not lacking in the works and the excitement, spontaneity, and freedom associated with the making of art, irrespective of the more theoretical or critical aspects, remains a salient quality in the work as a whole. These students love to make art, and it shows."

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 Renee Taffee, Education Curator, [reenet@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:reenet@missoulaartmuseum.org), 406.728.0447 x228.

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