



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Willem Volkersz: Childhood (Lost)

September 7 - December 18, 2011

MAM Benefactor Dinner with Laura Millin
and Willem Volkersz, November 10, 5 PM

Artist's Gallery Talk: December 2, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / August 17, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Willem Volkersz has been featured in exhibitions at MAM over the years. MAM is excited to host this new sculpture created by Volkersz in 2010. *Childhood (Lost)* incorporates brightly colored toys as symbols from popular culture. The sculpture speaks to not just one childhood lost but the memory of many childhoods lost. Volkersz uses the suitcase as a metaphor for travel, transference, and disappearance, commemorating the loss of his childhood classmates and friends during the Nazi occupation of Holland. On first glance, one will be attracted by the playful appearance of the toys. Yet the message is clear, as we each come face to face with such irreversible loss, or disappearance, we come to realize how such events pervade all subsequent experience.

Volkersz states, "My sculptures are just signposts documenting one man's path through life." Volkersz has created several pieces about people and events he remembers from WWII, yet *Childhood (Lost)* powerful expression contrasting evil and innocence.

Volkersz is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute and a retired Art Professor from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mt. He is a fan and collector of folk and self-taught artists and an advocate for the arts in the state of Montana. MAM is very excited to be hosting this important work by Willem Volkersz. *Childhood (Lost)* will be featured in the Travel Montana Lobby in the Andrew Precht Addition through December 18, 2011.

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.

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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-Thursday, 10AM-5PM, Friday-Sunday, 10AM-3PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.