



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

What is a Cone?

February 8-May 5, 2013 // Goldberg Family Library

Missoula, MT / December 18, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / This small exhibit in MAM's Goldberg Library is designed to educate people about the use of pyrometric cones as an important tool for determining accurately when it is time to turn off the kiln when firing ceramics. Pyrometric cones are slender pyramids made from carefully controlled compositions. Each cone is assigned a unique number that correlates with the target temperature and other kiln conditions. Technically, cones do not simply measure the amount of heat in the kiln, but how much heat-energy the ceramic materials in the kiln have absorbed and gauging the reaction of glazes to the firing.

The hottest cone is named a cone 10, gradually reducing in temperature to the designation cone 1 and then even cooler temperatures continue at cone 01, cone 02, and so forth. As the cone nears its prescribed temperature range, it softens and the tip begins to bend, drawn down by the influence of gravity. Generally, three cones are placed in the kiln, set in ascending order. For example, if you were firing the kiln to cone five, your cone pack would have a cone four, a cone five, and a cone six. When the first cone in the cone pack begins to bend, it is time for the potter to pay more attention to the kiln. It typically takes about 20 minutes for the cone to bend fully. A perfectly fired cone will bend forward at a 90 degree angle. If less than 90 degrees, the kiln was under fired. If more, the kiln was over fired.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Ted Hughes, Registrar, ted@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x222.

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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.