

Doug Russell: Confluences

February 16 - April 22, 2012

Artini: We Too Like to Make drawings, February 16, 6-9 PM

Artist's Reception and Gallery Talk: February 16, 7 PM

Master Class with Doug Russell: February 18, 12-3 PM

Missoula, MT / January 9, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Doug Russell is a visual artist who lives and works in Laramie, WY. His exhibition, *Confluences*, is a large, concise body of work encompassing three separate series of drawings. Each series explores the passage of time and cyclic changes through Russell's visual language of layered, evolving marks and transparency centered on monumental compositions.

Edifice, which comprises seven mixed media works on paper, is a literal study in time, process and evolution. In continual progress since 2005, Russell explains of the series that "the drawings reveal the passage of time through years of mark-making choices and changes." The final phase of the drawings, recently realized in 2011, was to use the architectural forms common in his recent work to "develop and flatten the illusion of space". *Empire* is a series of eight drawings that employ pencil, ink, graphite and China marker on Mylar, a semi-translucent surface that seems made for Russell's intricate, layered marks. Of the *Empire* works the artist states, "they are explorations of improvised gestural drawings of imagined monumental architectural forms." Where the *Edifice* series reveals years of marks from Russell's enveloping style, *Empire* gives the viewer the foundation of his most recent series of refined, colossal drawings. *Ebb and Flow* is a series of twelve large drawings completed in 2010 and 2011. The works range in size from 40 inches by 25 inches, to a large-scale installation— a monumental drawing of quiet, chaotic decay and slow, organic re-growth, larger than eight feet square. *Ebb and Flow* is Russell's "reflection of [his] perception of the compression of history, culture, and time" - and indeed these imagined, compressed civilizations are marvelous worlds unto themselves.

MAM is excited to introduce Missoula to Doug Russell with this exhibition of original drawings. More often than not, drawing is used as a tool by artists to explore ideas that are later formalized in other media, be it painting, sculpture or printmaking. Russell, on the other hand, readily absorbs the influences from these media to educate his visual investigation and inform his visual language while remaining rooted in the traditions of drawing. The body of work exhibited in *Doug Russell: Confluences* leaves no doubt that drawing is a powerful and beautiful medium on its own.

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.