



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Expressing Montana

June 10 - August 28, 2011

Artists' Reception: July 7, 5-8 PM

Artists' Gallery Talk: July 7, 5 PM

Musical Performances: July 7, 6-7:30 PM

Missoula, MT / May 10, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Montana is a place where artists are not afraid to use their work to speak out about the state of things. The diversity of their commentary says a good deal about the state. Expressing Montana is an exhibit, hour-long Montana Public Radio special, and event that focuses on social, political, and environmental commentary --poets, songwriters, visual artists -- from right to left, from folk to fine, from rural to urban.

Some of the Montana artists featured in the exhibit include: Bill Ohrmann, Drummond, a metal sculptor and painter whose work portrays the consequence of environmental and social ills; Kate Davis, Florence, who learned metal sculpture from Ohrmann joins the exhibit; Monte Yellow Bird Sr., Great Falls, collects antique documents and overlays American Indian iconography as a statement about American history; Dave Bogess, Butte, carves an iconoclastic vision of nature and society. Artists Toni Seccomb, Butte, and Kristi Hager, Missoula, make statements about greed, heart, and faith. Ray Jacobs of Eureka devotes his life to making as small an impact to the earth as possible. Even his guitars and other stringed instruments are built from found materials such as cardboard.

Performing at the Artists' Reception on July 7 will be old-time songwriter Ray Jacobs, Poet Laureate of Montana Henry Realbird, satiric songwriter and rancher Sandy James, and Tongue River songwriter Martha Scanlan. Fieldwork is still underway at the time of publication. A full list of exhibiting artists and performers will be available at missoulaartmuseum.org.

The exhibition was researched and assembled by guest curators Hal Cannon and Taki Telonidis. An archive of interviews and documentation form the basis of this project sponsored by the Western Folklife Center, a regional organization dedicated to the grass roots culture of the West, with generous support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

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

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