



NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

The Lost Journals of Sacajawea:  
Debra Magpie Earling with Photo-  
Interventions by Peter Rutledge Koch  
September 7 - December 18, 2011  
Artists' Discussion and Reception: October 8, 3-5 PM.  
Co-sponsored by Festival of the Book  
Artist's Gallery Talk: Debra Magpie Earling,  
December 15, 6 PM

Missoula, MT / August 17, 2011 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is pleased to present *The Lost Journals of Sacajawea: Debra Magpie Earling with Photo-Interventions* by Peter Rutledge Koch. Sacajawea is one of the most famous American Indian women—famous because of the literature of exploration and the mythologies of Western adventure that surround her—yet very little is known about her person. Historians know for certain that she traveled from the Mandan villages at the mouth of the Knife River to the headwaters of the Missouri, over the Bitterroot Mountains to the mouth of the Columbia, and then back to the Mandan villages with Toussaint Charbonneau, interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition from 1804 to 1806.

Historians know neither how to spell nor pronounce her name, and have conflicting accounts of her birth, parentage, early life, the circumstances of her marriage, her life after the expedition, her children, the circumstances of her death, and the whereabouts of her remains.

Debra Magpie Earling has written a raw-edged account of what might have been in the mind of Sacajawea — a 17-year-old pregnant slave (and wife) of Touissant Charbonneau in the years of 1804-5 on the Missouri River. Accompanying her work are photo-interventions by Peter Rutledge Koch to illustrate the dark and prophetic visions that the young woman might have had as she traveled westward towards her homeland with the expedition.

*The Lost Journals of Sacajawea*, a limited edition artist book, is a series of collaborations among artists. Don Farnsworth at Magnolia Editions consulted and solved problems of paper technology and photo-print production. Amanda Degener of Cave Paper in Minneapolis created the magnificent “smoked buffalo rawhide” paper. Earling and Koch collaborated on the design and the texts in a prolonged dialogue during the 4 years the project was underway. Jonathan Gerken at Peter Koch Printers has solved a number of the technical and aesthetic puzzles that arose during production.

Debra Magpie Earling is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. She has been published in journals and anthologies and her novel *Perma Red* received the American Book Award, the Mountains and Plains Bookseller Association Award, and a Spur Award. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008.

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 Stephen Glueckert, Exhibitions Curator, [stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto: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.