



NEWS RELEASE

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American Art Icon *Faith Ringgold* Exhibition at Missoula Art Museum

Exhibition: June 15 - August 7, 2007

Missoula, MT - April, 22, 2007 - Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is proud to host an extensive exhibition of work by renowned artist Faith Ringgold from June 15 - August 7, 2007. Faith Ringgold is an African-American artist, author and feminist idol from Harlem, New York.

Ringgold is best known for her large, painted story quilts and for her children's book, *Tar Beach*, which refers to the Harlem rooftop that was Ringgold's childhood refuge. This engaging exhibition of 40 works, simply titled *Faith Ringgold*, includes the original *Tar Beach* illustrations, as well as story quilts, paintings, prints, works on paper, tankas (rolled and painted fabric) and soft sculptures.

In keeping with its mission *to educate the community through contemporary art*, MAM is excited to host an exhibit as significant as *Faith Ringgold* during its first year in the newly renovated museum. As part of the adventurous mix of programming at MAM, *Faith Ringgold* reflects the institution's desire to reach outside the region to expose its audience to one of the most important artists of our time.

Since the 1970's Ringgold has been an icon of American art, asserting the important role of narrative, quilting, folk art and pattern work within the sometimes elite world of "fine art". She is celebrated for her honesty in addressing issues of race, gender, feminism and civil rights. *Tar Beach*, one of 11 children's books Ringgold has written and illustrated, was a Caldecott Honor Book and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration and the *New York Times* Best Children's Book Award.

This exhibition was assembled by the ACA Gallery in New York, NY. For more information about Ringgold's artwork visit her web site at www.faithringgold.com

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum educates, challenges and inspires the community through contemporary art. MAM preserves our emerging cultural heritage through the development and conservation of its art collection. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM's exhibitions showcase diverse and thought-provoking work from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri, 11am-6pm, until 7pm Thurs, Sat, 10am-3pm. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.

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