



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

## **A Week in the Life of a Hutterite Child** Exhibition February 12, 2008 - April 26, 2008

Missoula, MT / January 25, 2008/ Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is pleased to announce a new exhibit called Hutterite Photographs: A Week in the Life of a Hutterite Child. This exhibit features thirty-six photographs taken by children from six different Hutterite communities and was facilitated by Lewistown artist and teacher Cheryl Bannes.

Cheryl Bannes works with Hutterite communities throughout central Montana in association with the Montana Art Council, co-sponsored by VSA Montana. She started this particular art project as a means to bring art to the children of Hutterite communities as well as to document and share images that reflect their unique cultural experiences. Bannes also hopes that this project helps dispel myths and misconceptions about the Hutterite communities.

The six communities selected to participate in this project are close knit, isolated agricultural communities that are made up of 10 to 20 families, each with a unique set of beliefs and practices. Looking through the eyes of a child, the exhibit helps bridge the gap between Hutterite communities and our own.

Participating students looked at the work of pioneer Montana photographer Evelyn Cameroon. They were instructed on the use of cameras, the fundamentals of composition and then given a disposable camera.

The students took more than 1000 photographs over a period of three months. From these photos, a committee of teachers, artists and community members selected 36 images which were enlarged and framed for the exhibition.

Join us at the MAM to see the Hutterite Photographs: A Week in the Life of a Child. There will be a presentation by Cheryl Bannes and student photographers. This exhibit will be on display from February 12<sup>th</sup> thru April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Lela Autio Education Gallery.

Contact: Steve Glueckert, Curator of Exhibitions 406/728.0447

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**About MAM:** FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. MAM 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 showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11AM-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.

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