



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Following the Rhythms of Life: The Ceramic Art of David Shaner
Exhibition: February 19 – May 31, 2008
Reception and Curator's Gallery Talk by Peter Held: Friday, March 7, 2008, 7pm
Gallery Talk by Jack Troy: Thursday, April 10, 2008, 7 pm

Missoula, MT / February 12, 2008/ Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / The Missoula Art Museum is presenting a retrospective exhibit of the ceramic work of David Shaner. Though born in Pennsylvania, David Shaner spent much of his career as a ceramic artist in Montana. Living and working in Bigfork, Montana, his ceramic vessels and sculpture reflect the beauty of the western landscape and the natural environment. His innovations and success with refined organic forms and the wood firing process made him a leader in ceramics and sought after by museums and private collectors alike.

David Shaner (1934-2002) received his Masters of Fine Arts at Alfred University and later became the director of the influential Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in 1964, located in Helena, Montana. In 1970, Shaner left the Foundation and settled in Bigfork, Montana, creating his studio and his home there. Using the landscape that surrounded him, Shaner incorporated scenes from Montana into his ceramic pots and sculptures.

This exhibit, curated by Peter Held of the Ceramics Research Center at the Arizona State University Art Museum, is an extensive and in-depth view of Shaner's work, which spanned more than four decades. Through an unwavering devotion to his work, he attained that often elusive goal of bridging the gap between art and life to which so many artists aspire. This exhibition will be the educational foundation for the Fifth Grade Art Experience and is made possible through the generous support of the Art Associates of Missoula.

"Many artists and writers try to define a sense of space, whether an aggregate of geographies, cultural histories, peoples, the past and the present, all rooted in regional and individual character. For David Shaner, this place was Montana. He was inspired by its grandeur, and its infinite detail, and the shifting of seasons, all of which made a rich tapestry he called home for several decades" states Peter Held.

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.