



NEWS RELEASE

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Multi-Media Video Exhibition at MAM *GOATSILK: Portraits From An Ark*

Exhibition: August 1 - September 29, 2007
Opening Reception: First Friday, August 3, 5-8pm

Missoula, MT - April, 20, 2007 - Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM presents a multi-media video installation by the collaborative duo known as Goatsilk, Ben Bloch and Caroline Peters, from August 1 - September 29, 2007. *Portraits From An Ark* is a projected video artwork with a unique element of visitor participation: the video begins with the voice commands of gallery visitors.

Portraits From An Ark is comprised of 55 videos of different people who have had their faces painted like animals and enact the creatures using only their faces and heads. Visitors to the gallery initiate the video by speaking an animal name into a microphone. Using voice recognition software, the video plays the chosen animal video, and allows the viewer to partake in the work. Each video is short in length, encouraging visitors to continue to participate. A second video piece, titled *Edgers Are We*, will also be on view.

Ben Bloch and Caroline Peters began their collaborative partnership while in graduate school at the University of Montana. Soon after earning their MFA's, Bloch and Peters opened Goatsilk Gallery in Missoula in 2002 and immediately began to challenge and excite gallery goers with video installations, art actions and performances. The duo continues to experiment with new media, particularly digital video and the endless possibilities that the Internet offers to create real-time, interactive art works.

Ben Bloch teaches digital media at Whitman College; Caroline Peters is Assistant Professor of Art at Colorado State University. Both artists will be MAM's guests at a free, public, opening reception on First Friday, August 3, 5-8pm.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. 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. *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.*

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