



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2007

Missoula Art Museum Presents Blockbuster Artist Lecture Series

Missoula, MT / May-June 2007 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM will present five internationally-known artists in a dynamic lecture series at from May 10-June 1. Artists include Bently Spang on May 10, Brad Allen on May 17, Julia Becker on May 24, Marie Watt on May 31 and Blake Haygood on June 1. The artists either currently have an exhibition at MAM or have an exhibition scheduled. All events are free.

The first four artists are part of *New Spaces/New Visions*, a program funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation in which six artists will create installation artworks inspired by the newly expanded and renovated MAM galleries.

1) Bently Spang, Featured at Member Night Reception, May 10, 6-8pm, artist talk at 7pm. Spang is a multi-disciplinary artist working with short films, site-specific video installation, photography and live performance. Spang's work deals with issues surrounding his identity as a Northern Cheyenne Indian. His installation will be unveiled at MAM's Member Night Preview Reception on May 10 and open to the public May 11-August 11.

2) Brad Allen, Featured at Artini Thursday, May 17, 5:30-9pm, artist talk at 7pm. Allen's installation, titled *Loom*, will use Lincoln Logs, neon and other materials to transform the gallery into an alternate version of Missoula. The exhibit is open May 17-July 21.

3) Julia Becker, artist talk on May 24, 7pm. Becker of Great Falls is widely traveled. Her artwork combines video, sound and objects to confront issues of identity and cultural experience. On May 24 she will explore MAM's facility for her exhibition in 2008, interact with the community and present a talk at 7pm.

4) Marie Watt, artist talk on May 31, 7pm. Self-identified as "half Cowboy and half Indian", Watt creates installations defying this region's romantic art history. Working with everyday objects, specifically blankets, she explores human stories and rituals. On May 24 she will explore MAM's facility for her exhibition in 2008, interact with the community and present a talk at 7pm.

5) Blake Haygood, Featured at First Friday ARTWALK, June 1, 5-8pm, artist talk at 7pm. Haygood's imaginative paintings, drawings and prints personify the life cycle of old farm machinery. His organic abstractions of geometric forms are on view now through July 28. Haygood will visit Missoula from Seattle on June 1 for a reception and gallery talk.

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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