



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2007

New Spaces / New Visions Kicks off with Two New Installations

Bently Spang: May 11 - August 11, 2007

Brad Allen: LooM: May 19 - July 21, 2007

Missoula, MT - April 17, 2007 - Missoula Art Museum (MAM) - MAM features artwork by two Montana artists to kick off *New Spaces / New Visions*, a series of six exhibitions funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation. The two artists are Bently Spang, a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe from Billings, and Brad Allen, an assistant art professor at UM-Missoula.

Both artists create installation art, which combines different objects and materials to create room-size environments that encompass viewers with exciting, new sensory experiences. Both artists will work in the museum galleries to create installation artworks in direct response to MAM's new building spaces. MAM will present public programs with each artist.

About the artists

Bently Spang is one of the most versatile artists in the region. He explores connections between contemporary American Indian identity and ancestral lands. His content is serious, but his choices lead audiences on humorous and ironic journeys. Spang presented video and live performance at MAM in January, and met with Missoulians who will help him to make his artwork at MAM.

Brad Allen is a dynamic newcomer to Missoula, where he teaches at the University and has exhibited his sculpture. His work explores issues related to land use and the romantic western vernacular, name branding, tourism, western idealism and extractive resource industries. Allen's exhibition, *LooM*, is about Missoula, and will ask: What is the best way to live in this place? He will assemble his installation with the participation of school-aged children.

Events

May 6 - 11: Spang creates his work in MAM's Contemporary American Indian Art Gallery.

May 11, 7pm: Spang presents a gallery talk at MAM's Member Preview Night.

May 11 - August 11: *Bently Spang* exhibition on view

May 8 - 17: Allen creates his work in two MAM galleries.

May 19, 7pm: Allen presents a gallery talk at MAM's monthly Artini event.

May 19 - July 21: *Brad Allen: LooM* exhibition on view

Artists are available for interviews during their installations and throughout the exhibition.

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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