



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Shalene Valenzuela: Following Patterns

September 7 - December 23, 2012

Teen Artist Workshop: September 12, 4-6 PM

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk: December 7, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / August 8, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Missoula artist Shalene Valenzuela has created a new body of ceramic sculptures and MAM is excited to feature it in this exhibition. The new works address the idea of “patterns” both formally and conceptually. Her ceramic sculptures often reflect a variety of issues that are executed with a humorous and sometimes ironic tone. On a content level, Valenzuela never shies away from exploring issues focusing on women including self-esteem, stereotypes, expectations, idealizations, and perceptions.

Valenzuela incorporates everyday objects through the process of slip casting while the surfaces are illuminated with imagery, which is hand painted and/or screen-printed. Inevitably, the artist’s language comes through. The artist consistently presents work with an obvious relationship between the object or form and the illustration. For example, dress pattern paper and the image of the woman wearing the dress, all reinforcing the playful yet at times serious layered attitude of the artist.

Valenzuela states, “The physical presence of the pattern implies that the action taking place in the narratives relates to a pattern in some way – a habit, a rut in life, something we do on a daily basis and do not question.”

Valenzuela goes on to explain, “My narratives explore topics ranging from fairytales, urban mythologies, consumer culture, societal expectations, etiquette, and coming-of-age issues. Stylistically, much of my imagery is pulled from somewhat ‘dated’ sources that I find represent an idealized time in society and advertising. Beneath the shiny veneer of these relics hides a complex and sometimes contradicting truth of what things seem to appear as upon first glance.”

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Stephen Glueckert, Exhibitions Curator, stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x226.

- END -

About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum strives to engage artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region. 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: Tuesday- Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM, Saturday-Sunday, 12-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.