



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Marie Watt: Heirlooms March 19 - June 27, 2009

Teachers Workshop: March 19, 3-4:30 PM

Artini: Heirlooms, March 19, 5:30-9 PM

Artist Gallery Talk: March 19, 7 PM

Saturday Family Art Workshop: Family Flags, March 21, 11 AM -
12:30 PM

Missoula, MT / December 18, 2008 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM is proud to present Marie Watt's site-specific installation *Heirlooms* which is the final commission from MAM's Andy Warhol Foundation Grant. Watt will be in-residence at MAM during the process of installation.

She has this to say about her upcoming exhibition:

I am working with the notion of heirlooms, and the cameo as an heirloom-like vehicle for my image making. The first phase of my project, *A Secular Operatic Interpretation of First Nations Mingle Histories Featuring Coyote and His Animal Relations*, is a project that I am working on with the Fabric Workshop and Museum and will debut at the Missoula Art Museum.

My work explores human stories and rituals implicit in everyday objects. I am interested in the history of wool blankets and their heirloom-like quality. Freud considered blankets as 'transitional' objects, but I like to consider how these humble pieces of cloth are transformational. Blankets are a part of how we are received into the world and also how we depart this world. Blankets are used for warmth and shelter. Children use them for hiding and to construct impromptu forts. A blanket is a catcher of dreams and ledger of secrets. Wool blankets are the pelts of our animal relatives, the sheep. Blankets are body-like.

Blankets are also very personal to me. I am Seneca, one of the six tribes that make up the Iroquois Nation, and in my tribe and native communities, we give away blankets to honor people for being witness to important life events. In this way, it is as much of an honor to give away a blanket as it is to receive one. Ultimately, wool blankets are simple objects with stories that connect us.

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

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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: Wednesday, 12-8PM, Thursday-Sunday, 12-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.