



NEWS RELEASE

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The New Missoula Art Museum: The Building Design and Gallery Spaces

Missoula, MT / Missoula Art Museum / On September 15 the Missoula Art Museum (MAM) reopens its new, state-of-the-art contemporary art facility. Made possible by a \$5.3 million capital campaign, MAM is a spectacular attraction in the heart of the historic downtown: a fully accessible, free, public museum that boasts six exhibition spaces, a library, education center, and an inviting bookstore/lounge. As always, admission is free.

The Building:

The history of MAM's building, always used as a free, public, educational space, informed architect Warren Hampton's design. Hampton carefully created passageways and natural lighting that would encourage public engagement. The revitalized historic space is now connected to a contemporary, Utah red sandstone addition. Over four tons of glass create a seamless union. "This building is in itself an art masterpiece. It is a particularly sensitive reflection of MAM's dedication to being challenged by artists and informed by their creative process," says MAM Director Laura Millin.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the new museum is the potential for many uses. Both behind-the-scenes activities and public participation are improved dramatically. Essential items MAM did not even have before the project—elevator, classrooms, library, collection vault, loading dock and lift, art receiving and conditioning space, workshop, commercial kitchen, and coatroom—are now available. MAM looks forward to programming art classes, slide lectures, gallery talks, film screenings, and performance with increased capacity and aptitude.

The Galleries:

Six galleries covering over 6,000 square feet are dedicated to exhibitions. The new spaces are architecturally dynamic and provide more opportunities for presentation than simply four pristine, white walls. In addition to the updated and flexible lighting system and the unadulterated, hardwood floors, the six galleries are equipped with state-of-the-art digital and sound capabilities. There are also walkways, bridges, a stairwell, multi-story entryway, a two-story lantern into the main gallery, and exterior exhibition possibilities. Non-traditional installation, performance, and time-based opportunities are generated simply through the structure of the new architecture.

About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1987, MAM is a non-profit museum that educates, challenges, and inspires the community through contemporary art. MAM's exhibitions showcase diverse and thought-provoking work from local and international artists.

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