



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
January 5, 2007

Missoula Art Museum Presents New Space / New Vision Series

Missoula, MT / January-May 2007 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / MAM will host a series of artists' lectures, residencies and exhibitions, *New Space / New Visions*, funded by the Warhol Foundation. The Grant was awarded to fund a series of artists' installations over a two-year period, 2007-08, in MAM's newly renovated and expanded galleries.

Six artists have been invited to MAM to plan and create installations which explore the possibilities of the new art environments offered by the renovated and expanded MAM facility. The series will accentuate the collaborative process of installation; initially artists will meet with MAM staff, local artists and community members to discuss their projects. The initial visits will begin January 2007 with artist Bently Spang and Brad Allen, followed in subsequent months by artist Katy Stone, Julia Becker, Marie Watt and Jim Hodges. All events are free and open to the public.

ARTISTS TALK AND PRESENTATION DATES:

Thursday, January 18, 7PM

Bently Spang (Northern Cheyenne), Billings, MT.

Spang is one of the most versatile artists in the region. His fluency as a maker of objects, installations, and performances has been recognized by Creative Capital. Spang's work, which deals with issues surrounding his Northern Cheyenne identity is included in MAM's Collection. As part of MAM's January *Unfiltered Artini Thursday* event, Spang will present a performative lecture and films of his performance work will be on view.

Thursday January 25, 7PM

Brad Allen, Missoula, MT; Assistant Professor of Sculpture, The University of Montana.

Allen is part of a tight-knit international community of artists pushing the uses of cast iron. He complements his objects with found footage and multi media experiments. Allen will present a multi-media performance/lecture to introduce his artwork and ideas for his upcoming installation.

Thursday March 8, 7PM

Katy Stone, Seattle, WA.

Stone presented her first museum exhibition with MAM in 2001. She builds sensitive sculptural installations. Often referencing botanical or biological images from painted shadows and translucent layers Mylar and acetate. Stone is represented by the Greg Kucera Gallery in Seattle but exhibits coast-to-coast.

Thursday, May 24, 7PM

Julia Becker, Great Falls, MT; Professor of Art, University of Great Falls.

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Becker's work confronts issues of identity and cultural experience. Widely traveled, she recently completed a museum installation of video, sound, and objects based on journeys to India.

Thursday May 30, 7PM

Marie Watt (Iroquois/Haudenosaunee), Portland, OR; Professor of Art, Portland Community College. Self-identified as "half Cowboy and half Indian", Watt creates installations defying this region's romantic art history. Watt explores human stories and the rituals implicit in everyday objects. She has often worked with community members on sewing and installation projects and continues to demonstrate a willingness to share her process.

To Be Scheduled: Jim Hodges, New York, NY. Hodges is internationally renowned, but connected to the Northwest. He graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, has spent time in Missoula, and he is represented in MAM's Collection.

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. MAM reopened in September 2006 after an extensive remodel and expansion. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri, 11AM-6PM, until 7PM on Thursdays, Sat, 10AM-3PM. MAM Mission: *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.*

Contacts:

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