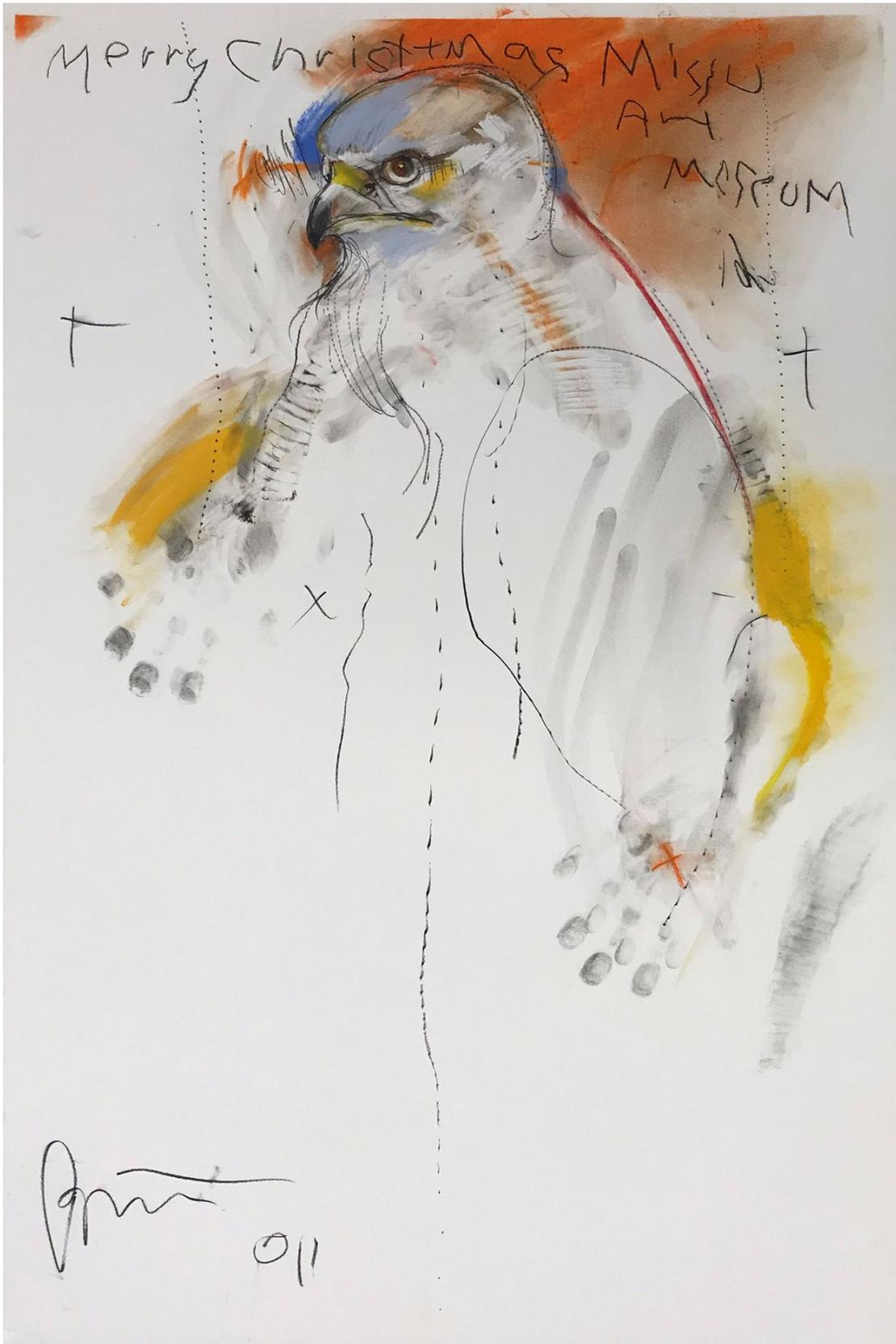


Love Letters to the Collection
Guest curator selection #4



Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot), *Merry Christmas Missoula Art Museum*, charcoal and pastel on paper, 2011, 40 x 26 1/2", MAM Collection, 2012.01, donated by the artist, copyright the artist.

April 13, 2020

MAM Docents Pamela Alexander, France Auvray-Stiriz, Dulcie Bulanger, Nancy Deskins, and Rosella Mosteller, wrote the following composite love letter to Rick Bartow's Merry Christmas Missoula Art Museum. The word "docent" comes from the Latin word "docere," meaning "to teach." At MAM, Docents volunteer as stewards of the museum by providing facilitation between museum visitors and the art on display.

Pamela Alexander

*"Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."
- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

Let us look at Rick Bartow's piece with the intensity of a hawk. Let it leave charcoal fingerprints on your heart and raise a higher level of awareness, inspire us and let his art keep us in a lifelong construction of a state of wonder.

France Auvray-Stiriz

*Relocation. Discovery. Rick
Loneliness.
Depth. Secrets. Sketch.
Strength.
Eagles. Skulls. Devil.
Sorrow.
Color. Hope. Growth.
Grateful Journey.
Much obliged Rick Bartow*

Dulcie Bulanger

*You stare so sweetly towards me; an offering without intimidation.
I appreciate the ghostly fingerprints that connect me to you with colors that encompass the whole. We are in this together. Sharing both the material world and the spirit.
My heart is full.*

Nancy Deskins

Merry Christmas hawk. Your eyes are strong and intense. You see the importance of our community museum and our holiday gatherings. You welcome our exciting season with your light and strength. We are filled with gratitude for your quiet, inner song of love, awareness and communication. Thank you for sharing our holiday spirit, Merry Christmas to you, our hawk/human brother.

Rosella Mosteller

*Dear Artist,
Your negative space of warm colors wrap the positive space like a blanket of protection. Ah...I cannot help but think it is symbolic of your love for nature!
Merry Christmas to you as well! In admiration of your heart felt expression.*