

HEART OF THE HOLTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ■ August 2026



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From the Director's Corner

Dear Holter Friends and Family,

August is a big month for the Holter and exhibitions. You may already know, but in January we were awarded a prestigious Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts grant for multi-year exhibition support. All three new exhibits that open this month — *Corwin Clairmont: Prints from the MAM Collection*, *Seek the Sun*, and *Jessica Hays: The Sun Sets Midafternoon*— are supported through this grant. All three of these exhibits are part of the Holter's "Challenging Stasis" theme. We are very excited to bring you these shows and elevate artists from all over the region and world who are grappling with some difficult themes using beautiful, yet provocative, visual imagery.

I urge you to open this newsletter to see the depth of events, workshops, and opportunities within. Museum staff have worked tirelessly to create

a diverse menu of experiences to encourage engagement with the art, artists, and ideas at the Holter. There is something for everyone!

Lastly, I want to invite museum members to the Annual Membership Luncheon which is being held on Friday, August 14th from 12-1 pm. Please RSVP to Abi at development@holtermuseum.org if you are a Holter member who would like to meet staff, see the museum, ask questions, and get a first look at our Annual Report. The Holter Museum of Art Bylaws were also reviewed and updated this past year, and these updates will be available to everyone. Come and join the board, staff, and your fellow Holter members for an informative and fun gathering.

I hope to see you all at the museum soon!

Christina

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opening Reception:
Seek The Sun & Corwin Clairmont
August 7, 6-8 p.m.

Annual Member Luncheon
August 14, 12-1 p.m.

Artist Talk with Corwin Clairmont
August 8, 4-6 p.m.

Opening Reception:
The Sun Sets Midafternoon
August 21, 6-8 p.m.

***Life of Montana... As Ever* Exhibition Talk with Michele Corriel**
August 15, 2-4 p.m.

Curator Talk:
Seek The Sun
August 26, 6-7 p.m.

Exhibitions



Life of Montana...As Ever: The Art of Bob and Gennie DeWeese

CLOSING AUG 16

Known as the “parents” of Montana’s Modernist movement, Bob (1920-1990) and Gennie (1921-2007) DeWeese devoted themselves to a life of art-making. This retrospective, guest curated by Tina and Josh DeWeese, highlights the Holter’s robust collection of DeWeese artwork and celebrates the power of art and family.

OPENING AUGUST 7TH: Join us for an opening reception from 6-8 pm!



Corwin Clairmont: Prints from the MAM Collection

This exhibition by Corwin (Corky) Clairmont [enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes] highlights a series of site-specific prints that challenge the cultural and ecological effects of European settlement upon the land previously inhabited by his indigenous ancestors for thousands of years.



Seek the Sun: A Juried Exhibition

This juried group exhibition features a selection of works made in response to *Golden Sunlight*, a painting by Montana artist Nolan Salix. Spanning a wide range of media, the works in this exhibit artfully explore the effects of industrialization and mining on the western landscape.

Exhibition support by:



Additional support from coal tax placed into Montana’s Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund.

HOLTER MUSEUM of ART

ROCK
the
BLOCK
9.20.26

Mark your calendars! The Rock the Block art fair and street party is BACK at the Holter! And this year...it's **FREE!**

Sunday, September 20, 11 am - 4 pm

Are you an artist, vendor, or musician?
Apply now to be a part of this event! Applications due August 17th.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Membership Luncheon

All Holter members are invited to join us on
Friday, August 14th at 12:00 pm
at the museum for our annual membership luncheon!

It's time to celebrate the invaluable contributions of our members.
Meet fellow donors, enjoy lunch, and connect with Holter staff.

To RSVP, please contact Abi at development@holtermuseum.org.



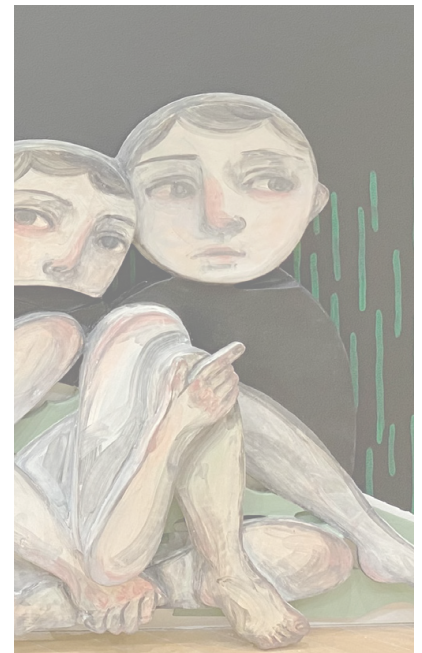
**BECOME
A HOLTER
MEMBER**

Memberships are a great way to support us!

We offer 5 standard levels of membership based off your annual level of giving. With the introduction of museum admissions fees, membership is the way to go if you want to show your support and receive some great benefits!

Benefits for Trailblazer level and ABOVE:

- At least 1 Holter membership card and FREE admission
- 10% off in Holter Museum Store and on Classes
- 10% off classes at Gentle Healing Wellness Center
- Free combo with purchase of any soup or sandwich at Planet Gyros
- 10% off your purchase at MT Book Company
- 10% off All Art Supplies at Queen City Framing & Art Supplies
- 10% off your purchase at Fire Tower Coffee House
- \$1 from your first drink at The Hawthorn goes to the Holter
- Free beer every month at Ten Mile Creek Brewery
- \$1 off your first drink at Gulch Distillers
- Free sprinkles with single cone purchase at Big Dipper



Click to Become a Member!



A Monument to Consumption

On August 7th, we will open the exhibition *Seek the Sun*, a juried group show centered on the Holter collection piece *Golden Sunlight* by Nolan Salix. When jurying this exhibition, we selected works that display various approaches to the subject matter. Some artworks were created in direct response to Salix's painting, while others were made previously, following a similar point of view. We were thrilled to see such a wide variety of mediums and aesthetic styles and a truly enthusiastic response to the brief.

A little over a year ago, *Golden Sunlight* was selected to be the focal point of the exhibition because of its striking size and appearance, as well as its clear message about the potential devastation of extractive labor practices and the importance of environmental conservation. I decided to focus the exhibition on these themes because I've noticed that climate and environment-focused conversations have diminished in the collective dialogue over the past few years. A topic that used to be at the forefront of political debate is now relegated to the fringes as other social issues grow in perceived importance. While I cannot blame people for feeling overwhelmed by the numerous concerns plaguing society today, I do think that prioritizing issues that affect the vast majority of people, such as climate change, health care, and the affordability crisis, is a tactic worth considering. My hope is that this exhibition helps refocus attention on the environment in a more personal way and reminds us what is at stake in our own backyard.

Golden Sunlight is a large, semi-abstract painting with loose brushstrokes and a textured

surface. A large blue sky occupies the top third of the painting, contrasting with heavy use of gold leaf and tar-encaustic below, meant to represent the gold being extracted from the mine and the chemicals used to extract it. It doesn't take much imagination to understand how the gold mine earned its name. In the piece, a smokestack looms in the middle left distance. As smoke rises, it cuts through the otherwise unblemished sky. According to Salix, the piece was painted en plein air (outside on location). He watched the sunrise as the light caught the edges of the terraces, highlighting the manmade mountain. The mine is a sculpture, a form that has had man's vision thrust upon it, dedicated to his lust for beauty. Rather than being created in reverence, concerned with preserving the sanctity and purity of the natural world and its graces, the mine represents a consumable beauty, one that can be possessed, processed, and sold for profit. This painting, though of a literal place, is a distillation and visual representation of man's desire to dominate nature, the ecological devastation enabled by consumer culture, and the undeniable achievements of man's engineering prowess. A monument to the folly of man—so preoccupied with profits and building shareholder value that we neglect the necessities that allow our own preservation.

The timing of this exhibition is no accident. Recently, the EPA launched the "greatest day of deregulation in U.S. history," rolling back 31 major climate and energy regulations. A week ago, protections for hundreds of endangered species were rolled back. Just this morning, as I'm writing this, Elon Musk's company SpaceX was given permission to build on land known to be inhabited by the endangered ocelot, an act that would've been illegal only days ago. Obviously,

Broad Vision (continued)

the rollback of these environmental protections is meant to ease the burden and lower the cost of new construction on once-protected lands. A kickback for those close to the real estate tycoon who has decided to sell off public lands to the highest bidder, or just a friend with deep enough pockets.

It's news like this that reminds me of how the United States responded to lead. We have known lead is poisonous for centuries. Still, it took considerable pressure from workers, specifically labor unions, before the United States banned its use in manufacturing in 1978, despite the government's full awareness of the effects of minimal to long-term lead exposure. Even still, lead wasn't phased out of gasoline until 1996. The United States government has no problem sacrificing its citizens to the golden calf of the free market if it means saving a buck. It has always taken the collective action of the people pushing back for conditions to even have a shot of improving. Ask your average union representative in Butte; he'll tell you.

On a more localized level, the Golden Sunlight mine has been an ecological disaster. According to Exhibit 8, MT Senate Bill 306, leaks and spills were frequent throughout mining operations. In 1983, a landslide caused a 7.5-month shutdown. During this event, 19 million gallons of cyanide solution leaked after a retaining wall at a tailings pond failed. This contamination affected the Jefferson River alluvium, as well as three domestic wells and one veterinary well, prompting neighboring landowners to sue Placer U.S. Six years later, groundwater contamination persisted, and by 2011, the full extent remained unknown. For example, in 1986, a pipe fitting split and discharged 2,000 gallons of cyanide. In 1987, 60 pounds of cyanide spilled in a slurry containing

40 tons of liquid and 40 tons of solids. A pipeline leak in 1988 released 15,000 gallons of mine waste. In 1989, a blockage in a pipeline caused acid mine drainage to spill onto the ground. Monitoring wells in 1992 showed cyanide levels exceeding the safety standard of 0.2 ppm, with eastside pumpback wells at 250-300 ppm and south pumpback wells at 100 ppm. In 1993, a 7-gallon-per-minute seep was found below the tailings impoundment, with cyanide levels at 0.6 ppm. In 1994, 48.3 tons of tailings spilled due to leaks, and state agencies were not notified for months. A notice of noncompliance was issued to the company for failing to notify the authorities and for failing to perform the required cleanup procedures. The mine closed in 2019 but reopened in 2022 with promises of "environmental stewardship," "reclamation and ecological recovery," and "AI integration to improve efficiency." I remain skeptical as environmental protections continue to be rolled back with shocking ease.

I do not mean to be so glib, and the exhibition isn't meant to be either. I believe this will be a wonderful exhibit showcasing the talents of over 20 artists from across the country. This has been a year and a half in the making, and I feel deeply honored and proud to present something like this to the public just because I happened to have an idea one day. *Seek the Sun* is meant to be a reminder that a better world is possible and that we should seek beauty even during times when it feels like there is none to be found. The exhibition will run from August 7 to November 1, and I hope you all get a chance to see it!

Sources:

Montana Senate Bill 306, Montana State Legislature. Reg. Sess. (Mont. 2025)

Farmonaut (n.d.) "Golden Sunlight Mine Montana: Top 5 Innovations Shaping 2026." [LINK](#)

Adult Programs



Free!

Courage to Create (Morning)

Weekly on Tuesdays, 10 am - 12 pm

- ◆ Art-making for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Caregivers.

**Click on the
class titles to
learn more and
register.**

Corks and Canvas

August 7, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

- ◆ Join the Holter for a happy hour with paint! With a drink in one hand and a paintbrush in the other, create a masterpiece while enjoying a social evening of painting.

Free!

Artist Talk with Corwin “Corky” Clairmont

August 8, 4 - 6 pm.

- ◆ Celebrated visual and conceptual artist Corwin Clairmont visits the Holter to discuss his work in conjunction with the exhibition *Corwin Clairmont: Prints from the Missoula Art Museum Collection*.

Free!

Exploring the Art of Bob and Gennie DeWeese with Michele Corriel

August 15, 2 - 4 pm.

- ◆ In this lecture, author Michele Corriel, PhD. will discuss the current exhibition *Life of Montana...As Ever: The Art of Bob and Gennie DeWeese* from a historic and personal perspective.

Free!

Curator Talk: *Seek The Sun*

August 26, 6 - 7 pm.

- ◆ Bring your thinking caps for a lecture and group discussion with curator Gianna Sherman. This month's talk will focus on the current group exhibition *Seek The Sun*.

Cabs and Slabs

August 28, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

- ◆ Join the Holter for a happy hour with clay! With a drink in one hand and some mud in the other, create a masterpiece while getting messy with friends, family, and new acquaintances!

From the Holter Vault: Artwork from the Collection

An enthusiastic observer of the world around him, artist Nolan Salix (1970-) tactfully navigates the aesthetic intersections between beauty and destruction. Such is the case with this gilded depiction of the Golden Sunlight mine, a 50+ year old open pit operation near Whitehall, Montana.



Using paint, gold leaf, and materials from the site (such as tar), Salix presents an honest vision of western grandeur while critiquing industrial practices that prioritize use over conservation. *Golden Sunlight*, which has been in the museum's collection since 2008, provided the inspiration for the 21 artists featured in the Holter's upcoming exhibition, *Seek The Sun*. Starting on August 7th, view Salix's piece (which measures in at a formidable 8 feet long) alongside these new works.

(Image: Nolan Salix, *Golden Sunlight*, 2004. Oil, encaustic, gold leaf, and tar on canvas. Collection of the Holter Museum of Art.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Holter Vault is getting a makeover! We're adding some new shelving and reconfiguring current storage systems in the vault. To do this, we'll need extra hands to help move artwork and heavy shelves/cabinets. A vault "work day" will be taking place on **Monday, August 10th from 10 am - 1 pm**. If you are interested (and comfortable with some heavy lifting/team lifting), please sign up below or email hannah@holtermuseum.org.

SIGN UP

The Holter is seeking committed weekly front desk volunteers. This position entails welcoming guests, running admission and gift shop transactions on an iPad, and working on other miscellaneous tasks at the museum's front desk. Front desk volunteers are expected to commit to a weekly shift (on the same day each week), which can last from either 10-1 or 1-5:30.

If you are interested (or know someone who is!) please email Gean at gean@holtermuseum.org.



What is *Raise the Roof*?

The Raise the Roof: Protect the Art campaign is a fundraising push to raise money for a complete roof replacement in the upcoming year. Whatever you are able to give, please know that every dollar goes directly to this critical infrastructure need, that 100% of campaign funds will be directed to roof replacement, and that your contribution will be recognized in permanent campaign donor recognition in the museum. **Thank you to all who have supported so far!**

To donate to Raise the Roof and learn more:

CLICK HERE

HOLTER ONLINE SHOP

You can now shop ONLINE for handmade arts and crafts at the Holter! Jewelry, ceramics, prints, art kits, and more will be available at

shopholtermuseum.org

Click the link above to check it out.

This website will be updated with more products soon!

HOST YOUR

HOLIDAY PARTY

AT THE HOLTER MUSEUM OF ART!



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: DEVELOPMENT@HOLTERMUSEUM.ORG OR CALL (406) 204-3401



Artist Opportunities



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
helping you shape Montana's future through giving

Images that Shape Montana

A Call for Art and Photography Celebrating the Impact of Philanthropy in Our State

Background

The Montana Community Foundation invites Montana artists and photographers to participate in our second Images that Shape Montana contest. This is your opportunity to share how you see philanthropy shaping our communities, landscapes, and future. Whether you're behind a camera lens or prefer holding a paintbrush, we welcome submissions that reflect generosity and positive change across Montana.

Categories

Submissions will be judged in four impact areas central to the Montana Community Foundation's mission:

- **Education, Equity, & Culture**
- **Community & Economic Vitality**
- **Land & Resiliency**
- **Health & Well-being**

To learn more and submit:

CLICK HERE

Prizes

- Grand Prize Winner (1) – \$1,500 and cover feature for MCF's annual impact report
- Category Winners (4) – \$500 each

Please review the contest guidelines for eligibility, art requirements, and exclusions.

Submit via: communications@mtcf.org to receive a link to upload artwork to a Dropbox account. Images should be high resolution and in JPEG format.

Questions can be directed to communications@mtcf.org or call (406) 441- 4952.



Last Chance Public Radio: CALL FOR VENDORS

LCPR is seeking vendors for their upcoming Retro Media and Art Faire, which takes place on November 27th. To apply, [CLICK HERE](#).