HEART OF THE HOLTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ■ **November 2026**



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Holter Friends and Family and All Who Came Before Us,

November begins with All Saint's Day, a moment that invites us to remember those who came before us, and especially the forward thinkers who helped carry us to where we are right now in time and space. Whatever our beliefs, we all know the experience of carrying someone with us: a parent whose words return when we need them, a teacher who recognized our promise, a friend who helped us see the world differently, a stranger who put a book in our hands that changed us forever.

Sometimes, what we remember most is a small act. Someone took us to a museum. Put a paintbrush in our hand. Paused beside us before a painting and asked, "What do you see?" And years later, those moments are still with us.

At the Holter, we care for things that outlive their makers. A thumbprint preserved in the surface of clay. An orange peel glued to a sketchbook page. Prophetic words found scratched into paint. Long after a life has ended, a work of art can still surprise us, challenge us, or make us feel understood.

That is an extraordinary kind of connection. Across years and generations, someone has left something for us to discover.

This November, I am thinking about the people who have made the Holter possible AND all those who have sustained it since. Artists who entrusted their work to our care. Donors who believed Helena deserved a place to exhibit, share, and preserve our artistic legacy. Volunteers who gave their time. Teachers who helped someone find the spark to create.

Some are no longer with us but their spirit remains. Helena and the Holter recently lost an icon and great supporter of the arts — Alan Nicholson. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be remembered as one of the most progressive, forward-thinking, and dynamic humans Helena and the state of Montana has been blessed with. Indeed, I will remember him every day I walk into the museum and see "Nicholson Gallery" on the wall. He may no longer be with us on this earthly realm, but his generosity will continue to shape what happens here and live out the Holter's mission.

This carrying forward of our mission happens when a child enters a gallery for the first time. When a Veteran sits down with fellow Veterans to create. When on older adult discovers a new way to express something they have buried for years. When a visitor encounters a work of art and stays a little longer than they expected.

As we launch this year's Annual Appeal, I invite you to consider the people who carried you forward. Who encouraged your curiosity? Who held your hand you through a difficult season? Who showed you that beauty and imagination deserved a sacred place in your life?

A gift to the Holter is one way to carry that kindness forward. Your support helps care for the art entrusted to us, bring thought-provoking exhibitions to our community, and sustain opportunities for people of different ages and circumstances to learn and create. It supports the daily, patient work of keeping a museum alive and welcoming.

Please make a gift to the Holter's Annual Appeal this November. When you do so, you become a part of the Holter story and carry forward the dreams, efforts, and creative spirit of all who came before. "Art is a representation of our devotion to life." These words by Agnes Martin come to me many mornings when I open our doors and wonder, *who will be encouraged, supported, and inspired today?* We cannot always know what we will endure from our lives. But we can choose what we nurture while we are here. Thank you for helping us care for what has been given.

With much gratitude, we will carry your gifts forward.

Christina


Dear Holter Family, Friends, and Supporters,

HOLTER ANNUAL APPEAL

THE HOLTER IN FOCUS 2026–2027

Click here to read the 2026 Annual Appeal letter & donate



HO HO HOLTER

HOLTER'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART SALE

NOVEMBER 6–DECEMBER 31, 2026

ART WALK OPENING RECEPTION & CELEBRATION

WHEN: November 13, 4–8pm

WHERE: Holter Museum of Art
in the Nicholson, Millikan & Held Galleries

In addition to hundreds of unique art pieces available for purchase, we'll also have:

- Art vendors: Betsey Hurd, Shade, Virginia Niccolucci, and Sherry Ramuta
- hot chocolate
- Cohesion Dance Nutcracker on the Rocks performance
- a free wrapping station

Join us here at the Holter to celebrate!

Ho Ho Holter, the museum's longstanding annual holiday show and sale, is back for another year!

As always, this year's show highlights artists and craftspeople, encouraging visitors to shop local during the holiday season.

There's sure to be something for everyone on your list!

Jump-start your holidays with us and enjoy all the festivities Holter has to offer!

HOLTERMUSEUM.ORG

HO HO HOLTER EVENTS & CLASSES

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM	5	6 Monthly Masterpieces: Leaf Gel Plate Prints 6:30–8:30PM	7
8	9	10	11 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM	12	13 Ho Ho Opening Reception & Fall Art Walk 4–8PM	14 Thankful Pies with Sam 1–4PM
15	16	17 Spoonarving with Mary 6–8PM	18 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM Spoonarving with Mary 6–8PM	19	20	21 Early Childhood ArtStart 10–11:30AM
22	23	24	25 CLOSED at NOON	26 CLOSED: Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday Sale	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM	3	4 Monthly Masterpieces: Watercolor Ornaments 6:30–8:30PM	5 DnD in the Realm of AiC 6:30–8PM Resin Ornaments 1–4PM
6	7	8	9 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM Woodburning Ornaments 6:30–8PM	10 Holter Birthday Bingo Bash 6–9PM	11	12 Cocoa & Canvasses with Eric 1–3PM
13 Wreath Making 12–4PM	14	15 Spanish Tin 6–8PM	16 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM	17 Kolrosing 6:30–8PM	18 Cabs and Slabs 6:30–8:30PM	19 Early Childhood ArtStart 10–11:30AM
20	21 Solstice Baking 1–4PM	22	23 LATE NIGHTS UNTIL 8PM Figure Drawing 6:30–8PM	24 CLOSED at NOON: Christmas Eve	25 CLOSED: Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 Ho Ho Holter Closes		January 15, 2027: Holter reopens

For a complete list of workshops, visit our website at holtermuseum.org/education

HOLTER EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS SPONSORED IN PART BY

MONTANA CULTURAL TRUST
Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

Exhibitions

Figuring Frank ■ **Frank Hyder**
October 16–December 31



The paintings Frank Hyder produced in the early 1970s reveal an artist arriving at painterly maturity with striking confidence and clarity. Created at a moment of intense intellectual exchange, these works reflect Hyder's deep engagement with color, structure, and observation, while resisting stylistic allegiance to any single school or mentor.

The paintings balance immediacy and restraint: figures, interiors, and everyday scenes are rendered with a sensitivity to light and surface that feels intuitive and rigorously considered. Far from preliminary or exploratory, these works assert a fully formed artistic voice, one grounded in attention to the quotidian and a quiet insistence on painting as a site of sustained looking.

Long unseen, the 1970s paintings stand as a rare and compelling record of an artist's origins, offering fresh insight into the foundations of Hyder's art practice.



Reconfiguration ■ **Lacey McKinney**
October 30–December 31

In Lacey McKinney's own words, "I work at the intersection of painting, photography, drawing, and collage, to explore and shift the meanings of bodies and their interactions. I build images using visual markers of skin, plants, bones, fur, hair, the land, and the sky to think through ideas about gender and the ecology of living things. My work depicts entangled arms, legs, and other limbs. It is unclear if the figures are dancing, wrestling, embracing, or tearing away."

EXHIBITIONS SUPPORT BY

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

MAGDA Montana Art Gallery Directors Association

MONTANA CULTURAL TRUST

Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust.

THE FOUNDATION FOR MONTANA HISTORY

MCA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO

te! Arte

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

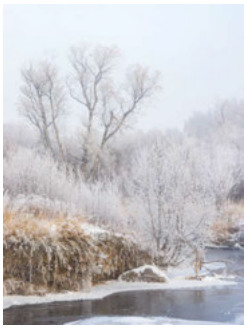
Additional support from coal tax placed into Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund.

Exhibitions









Ho Ho Holter ■ Group Show
November 6–December 31

Ho Ho Holter is a longstanding Holter and community tradition, kicking off the holiday season with a focus on buying local and handmade. Highlighting the immense talent in and around Montana, *Ho Ho Holter* offers patrons a chance to collect and purchase handmade work for their private collection or as gifts this holiday season. This sale spans the Holter Store and fills three galleries with artwork from over 30 local and regional artists and craftspeople, inviting the community to come enjoy, celebrate, give, and collect from artists!







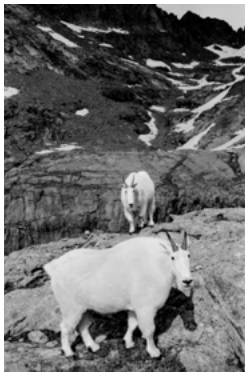


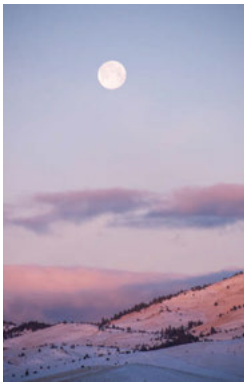
















Broad Vision by Gianna Sherman, Curator



Figuring Frank

On Friday, October 16th, the Holter opened *Figuring Frank*, an exhibition by artist Frank Hyder, guest-curated by Ethan Cohen of Ethan Cohen Gallery in Chelsea, New York. The exhibition will run through December 31, 2026. I highly recommend seeing the show if you haven't already.

Frank Hyder has been an artist for over 50 years and has achieved tremendous success throughout his career, including over 200 group shows and more than 100 solo shows across the Americas, Asia, and Europe. He is best known for his inflatable sculptures of Janis, the Greek two-faced god of time, marked with motifs inspired by Venezuela's indigenous peoples, as well as his series of black-and-white paintings of the Venezuelan jungle, with brightly colored faces peeking through the flora. His work ranges widely, from koi fish to large-scale mixed-media faces of South American indigenous people to canoes, lights, and grand egg-shaped sculptures. He is not limited to any particular medium and uses whatever best complements the emotion he wants to convey. One could easily argue that Hyder is a master artist.

What makes this show special is that half of it consists of work he has never shown before. The show includes 13 oil paintings, all from 1972 to 1975. These works have been in storage since they were made and only came to light when a gallery director and curator, Ethan Cohen, saw one of his more recent oil paintings and asked if Hyder had more. The exhibition, *Painting from Life*, cataloged and displayed at Ethan Cohen Gallery, includes hundreds of these paintings, several of which are self-portraits. The version we have now, *Figuring Frank*, is a heavily curated selection from this tremendous body of work. In addition to the 13 oil paintings, we also have a selection of brand-new work. Free-standing figurative cut-outs are scattered across the floor, while others hang opposite the oil paintings. The subject matter ranges from friends, students, and family pets, but most of the work depicts his wife of 56 years, Helen. Lastly, three large-scale paintings depict pools. Two are suspended back-to-back from the ceiling in the center of the room. One shows a group of people playing, and the other shows a woman floating, limbs splayed, in a star-like shape. The exhibit's star of the show, so to speak, is the largest piece, *Star-Shaped Pool* (1976), hung dead center on the back wall. The piece offers a multi-perspective view: a woman stands straight and centered, surrounded by ant-sized people seen from a bird's-eye perspective. A halo crowns her nearly life-size head. The show blends old and new, demonstrating the artist's development over the last 50 years. As you look around the room, you can clearly see his evolution from tight, subtle brushstrokes to a looser, more intuitive approach, born of the confidence that comes from doing this hundreds of times.

Hyder's early work consists of straight-on "portraits," but Hyder would not consider them portraits because they

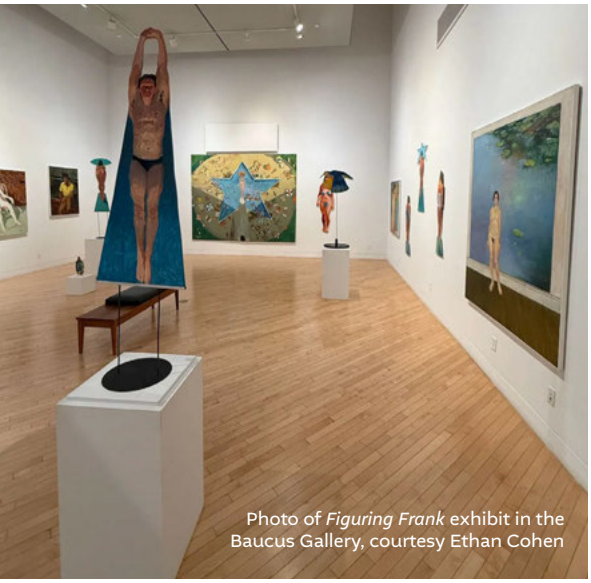


Photo of *Figuring Frank* exhibit in the Baucus Gallery, courtesy Ethan Cohen



Frank Hyder, *Star-Shaped Pool* (1976)

do not aim to capture an exact likeness. For the sake of simplicity, I will refer to them as portraits for the remainder of the article. One that instantly stood out to me is a portrait of a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a white dress, seated in a peacock chair at the center of the image. A dark wood armoire looms behind her, filling the rest of the frame. Her gaze immediately struck me. She faces the viewer dead on. Her expression is almost confrontational, a hallmark of modernist painting popularized by Manet's *Olympia* (1863). Manet gives Olympia agency by having her confront the viewer's gaze directly. Prior to this, most paintings of nude women often showed them in passive repose. While Helen, Hyder's wife, is not nude in *My Bride* (1974), her face suggests the same confrontation. Perhaps it was simply the strain of putting up with an eccentric husband, or perhaps Hyder deliberately made her look that way, but her expression is striking. She looks mildly perturbed, as if she's annoyed you're looking at her, as if she has better things to do than be gazed upon. She is intense, and her eyes seem to see right through you. Her brow is slightly furrowed, and her mouth is barely downturned. A blushing bride she is not, but she captures another reality: being the wife of a painter, a subject and muse in his life for the foreseeable future. Hyder has probably painted Helen hundreds of times, and Helen herself joked that the exhibition is the "Helen Show" since so many pieces are of her. Of all the paintings I've seen of her, this one is the most powerful.



Frank Hyder, *My Bride* (1974)

Moving on, yes, to another painting of Helen. *Backed Up* (1974) depicts a nude view of Helen's back, from her head to her upper thighs. Her arms are raised and outstretched as her hands press against a large painting of lily pads, a view from the Hyder household. Her stance, with her legs slightly spread, is strong and powerful. She turns her head and gazes over her right shoulder with one eye. A single gold hoop earring dangles over the center of her neck and back. The piece plays on the confrontational gaze of modernist nude painting, much like the previous. While she is not as dead-on as Olympia or My Bride, her eye still meets the viewer's. The image evokes eroticism and voyeurism. She is aware that you are watching her, but she remains in control. She has not lost her power in her vulnerability. Make no mistake, she is not seducing the viewer. Instead, she challenges them, daring them to keep looking and watch what happens next. The image also feels full of anticipation, capturing what seems like a split second before the action. Though her nudity and pose could be construed as exposing or even unflattering, I see strength. Youth and beauty carry tremendous power, and it takes self-possession to recognize that and know how to wield it, as she does in this intriguing image.

Lastly, we move on to a "family portrait" titled *Portrait of an American Family* (1974). This painting features a young Helen and a young Frank. The style and composition

Broad Vision (CONTINUED)

are typical of an oil painting. The woman sits again in her peacock chair, her hands crossed in her lap. The man stands behind her, one hand resting on the chair's back. They both stare directly at the viewer. But a third figure, an interloper, lingers in the background. To the left, a small TV is on, showing a talking head against a blue backdrop. He has dark hair and wears a pale suit. While I am not sure who the man is, contextually he seems like a news anchor or someone with similar authority. I say this because those who were around during that time have told me that news anchors used to feel like family. People saw news anchors as trustworthy authorities and watched the news every night to stay informed. This trust began to deteriorate as I grew up, with the advent of the 24-hour news cycle. Still, because the relationship was so strong at the time, it makes sense to include this distant family member in what was meant to be a contemporary portrait of the American family.

If any of this sounds appealing to you, I encourage you to visit the Holter between now and December 31 to see this remarkable exhibition. Admission is free through the end of the year, so all you have to do is show up. If you're interested in learning more about this show and joining the discussion, I will be leading a **curator talk on December 16, from 6–7PM.**



Frank Hyder, *High Diver* (2026)





Frank Hyder, *Portrait of an American Family* (1974)

LATE NIGHTS AT HOLTER

Wednesdays | 5:30–8PM | FREE! Admission

DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT BAR



Rubens Revisited XXI by George Gogas

From the Holter Vault: Artwork from the Collection



The Goddess

Miles donated this piece, along with three others, after her 2019 Holter exhibition *Art is a Moving Target*. The exhibition included several portraits, but *The Goddess* displays Miles's explorations outside of "traditional" portraiture. This piece, with its abstracted profile form (a form that appears repeatedly in the artist's body of work), is aptly named, as its subject's serene and amorphous qualities suggest an omnipotence, not unlike an Easter Island Moai. In her statement for the 2019 exhibition, Miles writes, "These paintings represent the ambiance of a place and time that have a special, memorable or familiar iconic presence. I hope the (paintings) trigger a common familiarity for the viewer." Do you know the Goddess? Does she know you?

Sheila Miles, *The Goddess*,
2015, charcoal on canvas,
Collection of the Holter Museum of Art,
gift of Sheila Miles

Collection — NOW ONLINE!

— Holter Museum of Art: The Holter's Collection —

The Holter Museum of Art collects, preserves, exhibits, and researches contemporary American art and artists with an emphasis on Montana and the American West, beginning with the birth of Montana's modernist movement.

The Holter is home to a collection of approximately 1,700 artworks. Works from the collection are featured in rotating exhibitions and are occasionally loaned to other institutions. A large part of the Holter's collection is now available to browse online! This archive is currently being updated with new records.

Click Here to Browse the Collection

Have a question? Please contact Registrar Hannah Harvey at hannah@holtermuseum.org or 406-204-3398.

The collection would not be possible without a wide community of donors. The majority of collection artworks are donations, and operations have been funded in part by generous grants and donations.

Special Thanks to: M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust ■ The Foundation for Montana History ■ The Family of Robert & Gennie DeWeese David Hunter ■ Ken and Marie Lawrence ■ The Family of Poo and Robert Putsch

Holter Healing Arts

For most up-to-date listings and to register, go to holtermuseum.org/education





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

YWCA Holter Healing Art Weekly class; Wednesday 8:30–10:30AM

- Weekly workshop with teaching artist Cassi Stone focusing string and nail silhouette.

BHU Holter Healing Art Cart and Weekly class: At St. Peter's Behavioral Health Unit Jonathan introduces the participants to different art lessons and mediums, helping them to relieve stress, express themselves through the use of different materials and occasionally let them discover skills and passions they were not aware they had.

WEEKLY COURSES

Courage to Create

Tuesdays, 10AM–12PM

This workshop is **free** and available to all active military members, veterans, and their caregivers. Thanks to the generous donation from the national endowment of arts creative forces grant and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

- Have had a blast learning all about natural dye and making yellow, orange, green, and blue dyes with artist Allison Grove. All materials are naturally grown and locally sourced from Montana. We will be crafting our own looms and begin weaving mug rugs.
- November 17: We will be transitioning into our next unit exploring hydro dipping to create coffee cups.
- November 25: Participants will stick to water art and explore Ebru, the traditional Turkish art of water marbling with our own Anna Lund.

RMDC workshops

Fridays, 12:45–2:15PM

This workshop is **free** and available to all members at the Rocky Mountain Development Council. Thanks to the generous donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

We will be exploring the concept of abstract art through neurography and collage with teaching artist Jonathan Geschwill.

YWCA workshops

Wednesdays (closed to the public)

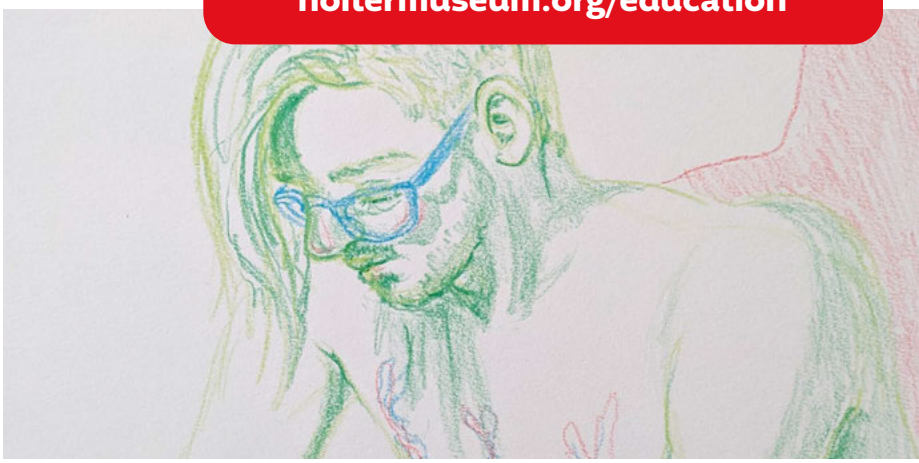
This workshop is exclusively for residents of the YWCA and is closed to the general public. Facilitated by our teaching artist, Cassie Stone, the sessions focus on self-reflection, personal growth, and healing through art and the creative process.

- This month, classes will focus on creating affirmation string and nail art wall hangings.

Adult Programs

For most up-to-date listings and to register, go to holtermuseum.org/education





WEEKLY COURSES

Figure Drawing Open Studio

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00PM — Life-long learning

The Holter provides a model and the space for participants to come study as artists new and experienced engage in their own artistic practice. All levels are welcome! Bring your own media.

MONTHLY COURSES

Monthly Masterpiece: Leaf Gel Plate Prints

Friday, November 6, 6:30-8:30PM

Monthly Masterpieces at the Holter Art Museum is where adult social hour meets fine art making. Join us once a month to explore a new medium, connect with fellow art lovers, and take home your very own gallery-worthy creation.

Cabs and Slabs: November will be canceled due to Thanksgiving.

HO HO CLASSES

Thankful Pies

Saturday, November 14, 1–4PM

Join for a lip-smacking, pie-making, culinary arts class. Sam Turner, professional pie extraordinaire, will teach a variety of techniques and flavors culled from his experiences as a Seattle pie chef. At the end of the class, walk away with a tasty treat and the knowledge to make at home!

Spoon carving

Tuesday & Wednesday, November 17 & 18, 6–8PM

Discover the ancient and rewarding art of hand-carving in this immersive, beginner-friendly workshop. Led by professional carpenter Mary Webb, this hands-on course guides you through the systematical process of transforming a block of wood into a beautiful and functional utensil.

Youth Programs

For most up-to-date listings and to register, go to holtermuseum.org/education



ATAC has collaborated with **Richard Swanson** to create ***3 original skateboard decks*** that will be printed by Brussels-based company, The Skateroom.

Decks will be available for purchase in the Holter Museum store and at the Holter Museum gift shop ONLINE. All proceeds will go to the Holter's Scholarship Fund for Juniors in High School through incoming sophomores in college.

AFTER-SCHOOL

Engaging art classes for 7–18 to learn, create, and have fun

Day-time and After-school Classes

Paint, draw, and create in after-school programs with Holter Museum of Art! Sign-up by the month or with a pro-rated price for the remainder of the semester.

- Imagine That!
- Art Smart
- Paint Drips
- Adventures in Cardboard: Armory & Games

Offered at no cost:

- ArtFeeds – Middle School
- Art for Survival
- ATAC – After-School Teen Art Council

This summer the Holter received a **Blue Impact grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT** for our **Holter Healing Arts Programs**, including our ***free after-school programs for youth***.

Thank you to BCBSMT and their crew for putting together this wonderful short video of our ATAC program.

CLICK TO SEE VIDEO

"BREAK OUR WALLS"



Commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall with Capital and Helena High German Club!

- Students build a movable wall that is then painted with an original design. The wall will be on display Nov. 13.
- Nov. 14, join MSU Professors and German Instructors for a lecture and discussion. Stay to help students tear down the wall afterward!

Membership

Membership Survey

Members are the backbone of the Holter Museum of Art — and we want to hear from you!

Please fill out the brief survey about your membership perks, status, and tiers.

CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY



March Afternoon in Helena, Kathleen Mollohan, 1993, Wool
Holter Permanent Collection, Gift of IBM



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!

Each donation automatically makes you eligible for a membership.

How Does My Donation Help?

To sustain and expand the museum's vital programs, we ask supporters like you to consider giving generously during our Annual Appeal fundraising campaign.

$50	Provides art supplies for a class or to patients in the Holter Healing Arts program
$100	Provides art supplies and materials for one Summer Camp
$150	Provides our free teen groups with supplies, snacks, and access to engaging workshops
$200	Provides a FREE museum admission day for ALL
$250	Provides scholarships for a student in our education program
$500	Provides archival supplies and materials for our Permanent Collections
$1000	Provides for transportation of exhibition artwork
$2500	Provides for ONE Artists-In-Residence program (8 weeks long) at a Helena elementary school
$5000	Provides artist support and exhibition expenses for ONE exhibition

Give Today

CLICK TO DONATE

Artist Opportunity

CALL FOR ART

Through Our Hands: An Eco-Centric Perspective

APRIL 30–JUNE 20, 2027

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31

We encourage artists to create a piece of art using recycled or repurposed materials and found objects. The whole piece does not need to consist of these materials, but they should be clearly featured. The artwork could also demonstrate the influence of human consumption and its impact on communities, both natural and social. We ask that you use *Indian Flats (1999)*, featured here, as inspiration, whether in form, material, or spiritual ethos.

CLICK TO APPLY



Terry Karson and Sara Mast, *Indian Flats (1999)*

HOST YOUR

HOLIDAY PARTY

AT THE HOLTER MUSEUM OF ART!

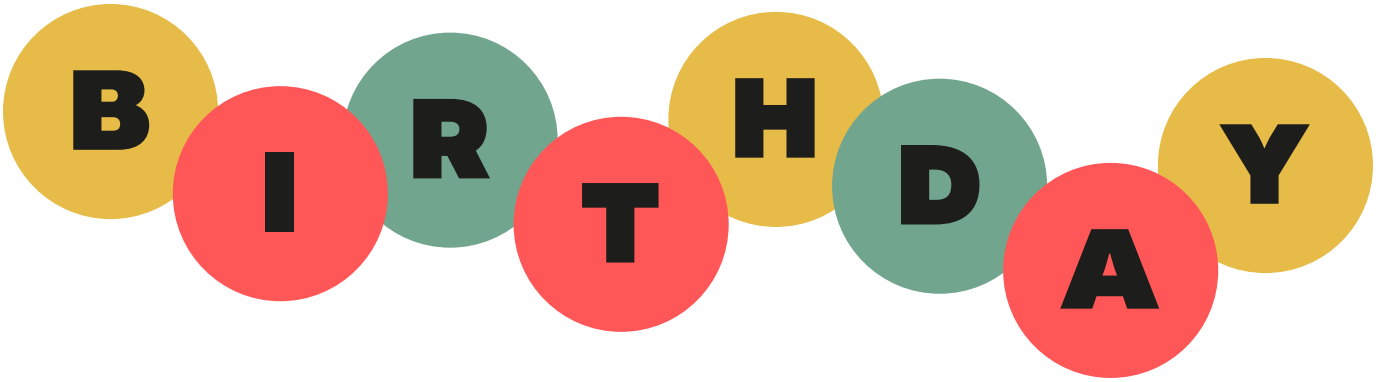


FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: DEVELOPMENT@HOLTERMUSEUM.ORG OR CALL (406) 204-3401

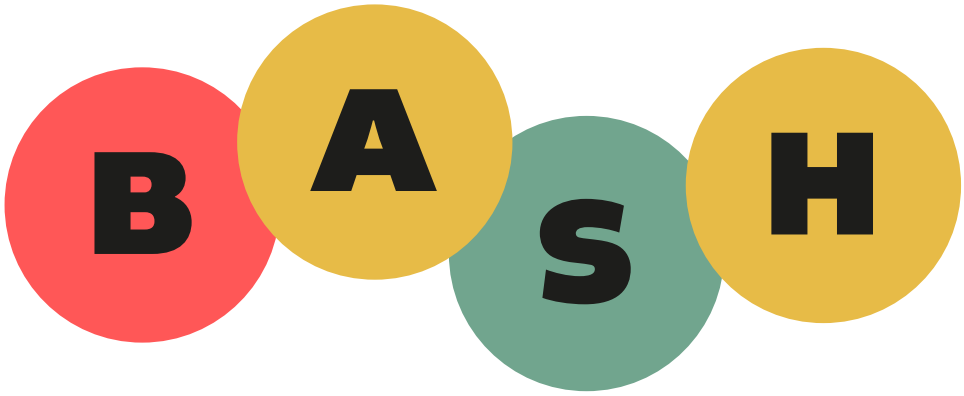
HOLTER MUSEUM of ART

E.L. Wiegand Foundation CREATIVITY CENTER

Celebrate 39 years of Holter with us!







SAVE THE DATE

December 10

MORE DETAILS TO COME