

HEART OF THE HOLTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ■ September 2026

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From the Director's Corner

Dear Holter Friends and Family,

As I write this month's letter, I am sitting in the lounge of a mid-sized river boat on the Rhine River watching the water (which has been historically low this year!), beautiful colored houses lined up in rows along the banks, and magnificent castles (even if some are in ruins), and contemplating on the wonderful community that 10 of us from the Holter family who joined our Rhine River Cruise experience have built over the past week and half. I have always loved to travel. I have always loved art and architecture and language. Some of you may know that I grew up with two parents in the Air Force, which gave me the incredible experience of living in and going to school in Europe for most of my childhood — Madrid, Spain; Earith, England; Oberbruch, Germany; and Brunsum, the Netherlands. These experiences, places, and people with whom I had deep and impactful relationships shaped me into the person I am today.

I don't believe I would have ever become an educator or an artist without the experiences of my childhood and then again as an adult. It is also not lost on me that we are entering the school year. After 22 years in public education before coming to the Holter, it is impossible for me not to continue to move in this cycle; the fall is always filled with excitement as I move into another season of learning. This

also weaves into my belief that museums are ultimately educational institutions. Many of you have come to me at some point over the past year and exclaimed something to the effect of "I can't believe how much is happening at the Holter lately!" There is a reason for this renewed sense of purpose: the development of life-long learning opportunities for adults at the museum has become a focus of our energies. And as I sit here with this wonderful group of ten life-long learners on this journey the past few weeks, the need for connection — to stoke our curiosities, to build community through art and culture — is more imperative than ever. What a wonderful experience for all of us!

This newsletter will hit your inboxes before our return on September 6th. We have somehow miraculously made it through the Rhine River during this historically low water level (the only passenger ship of our size to do so in 7 weeks!).

As far as September activities at the museum are concerned, per usual, there is so much to see, learn, and do — no matter your age or interest. I sincerely hope you enjoy our fall opportunities — be it Rock the Block, art exhibit openings, curator talks, collection chats, artist talks, or intellectual panel discussions. Or maybe you just want to paint and draw or smash some clay? We have that, too!

With much love,
Christina

UPCOMING EVENTS

JM Cooper:
***Adel Sheep Shearing,
Sieban Live Stock Company***

OPENING RECEPTION:
September 11, 6–8PM

PANEL DISCUSSION:
September 23, 6–8PM

***The Sun Sets Midafternoon
Jessica Hays***

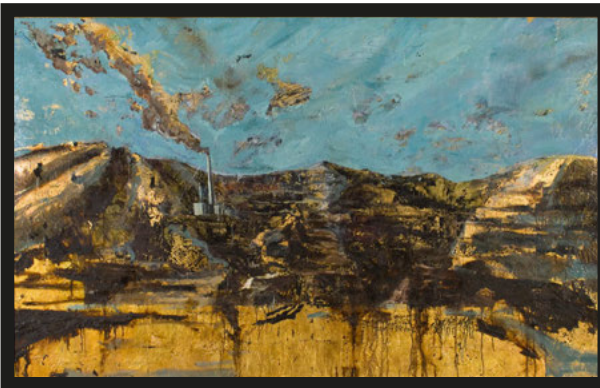
CURATOR TALK:
September 16, 6–7PM

Corwin Clairmont:
Prints from the MAM Collection

MONOPRINT WORKSHOP:
September 26, 1–3PM

Rock the Block
September 20, 11AM–4PM

Exhibitions



Seek the Sun ■ Group show featuring works inspired by “Golden Sunlight” by Nolan Salix August 7–November 1

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.

Corwin Clairmont: Prints From The MAM Collection ■ Corwin “Corky” Clairmont August 7–October 26

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.



The Sun Sets Midafternoon ■ Jessica Hays August 21–October 11

“My photographs are engaged with ideas of the sublime and awe, recognizing both the fear and wonder that can be derived from climate disasters and the land in of itself.” Jessica Hays is a photographer and artist whose intimate work draws on personal experience to communicate ubiquitous human experiences, tackling topics like mental health, trauma, environmental issues, and loneliness.

JM Cooper: Adel Sheep Shearing, Sieban Live Stock Company ■ Stephen Nobel September 11–October 25

JM Cooper considers himself “fortunate to have been born and raised in Helena, Montana.” He is a black and white documentary photographer with over 40 years of experience. He started trying to document the Montana of his youth that was quickly vanishing — outdoor movie theaters, small-town rodeos, brandings, sheep shearings, and other aspects of Western life.



EXHIBITIONS SUPPORT BY



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

 **HOLTER MUSEUM of ART**

ROCK the BLOCK

September 20, 2026 – Sunday 11AM–4PM

HOLTER MUSEUM OF ART & CRUSE AVE

The Holter Rock the Block Art Fair is an end-of-summer celebration featuring booths from local artists selling their original fine arts and crafts, fun fall activities and games, bucket raffles, food trucks, and unique hands-on art activities where attendees can create one-of-a-kind art pieces to take home!

holtermuseum.org/events/rock-the-block-art-fair

Call for **VOLUNTEERS**

We need help setting up for the street block party, running activities, booths, and general cleanup. All volunteers will receive a limited edition Rock the Block shirt as a thank you!

Click here to Sign Up to
Volunteer and help us throw
an epic Community Party!

Please contact Abigail Forsythe at development@holtermuseum.org with any questions.

Membership Luncheon

— RESCHEDULED —

All Holter members are invited to join us on
Friday, September 11th from 12-1PM
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!

Broad Vision by Gianna Sherman, Curator



The Sun Sets Midafternoon

On August 21st, the Holter Museum hosted the opening reception for the exhibition *The Sun Sets Midafternoon* by Jessica Hays. The exhibition is a photographic exploration of the past six years of wildfires in the western United States. It will run in the Baucus Gallery from now until October 25th, and I encourage everyone to come see it if they can. This exhibition is paired with two other climate-focused exhibitions: *Seek the Sun*, a group show about man's direct impact on the landscape and extractive mining practices, and *Corwin Clairmont: Prints from the MAM Collection*, which focuses on environmental activism through his Yellowstone Pipeline collage series from 1995, combined with his Shadow series, which consists of collaborative prints from 2022 documenting Salish hunting spots in the Missoula area. Each exhibition currently on display at the museum addresses climate change from three distinct perspectives, allowing our audience to see a wide breadth of creative responses to the subject matter.

The Sun Sets Midafternoon, in its totality, comprises 84 images. The current iteration at the Holter is a heavily curated selection of 22 images in varying sizes, punctuated by four excerpts from the

writing of the artist-photographer Jessica Hays. You can find the full 84 images and extended writing in her stunning book of the same title, available in our gift shop.

As you approach the Baucus Gallery, the images are unassuming. Though aesthetically pleasing and technically sound, they are, at first glance, uncontroversial. Pantone shades of burnt ochre, saffron, and burnt coral draw you in as moody spotlights illuminate the photographs. Installation murals hang like wallpaper on the 20' high Baucus walls, engulfing the viewer in a solemn atmosphere. One is immediately drawn to the piece *Pyrocumulus* (2023) on the gallery's



Xiang Gao, *THE LAND*

Jessica Hays, *Mullen*

Broad Vision (CONTINUED)

back wall. No sky or recognizable object is to be found, just thick pink smoke rising 10' tall and spanning 15' wide. It's beautiful, with hues resembling a romantic sunset, but eventually you notice the black spots piercing through the warm glow. An arresting contrast of incandescent yellow and charcoal surrounds you. To your left, you see the 7' tall by 10' wide mural *Mulch* (2022), a black pile of burnt earth. Blue-gray smoke rises and blends into the white walls, creating an unbroken sky. The heavy image imposes itself on you as you stand from a mole's-eye point of view. A photograph of an apocalyptic-looking *Safeway* (2020) parking lot luminescence like embers

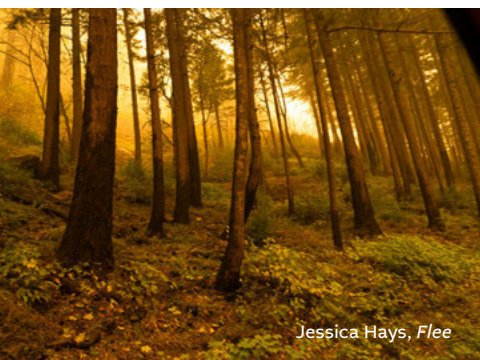
as it overlaps the right edge of the mural. To your right, the 7' x 10' mural *Fire Weed* (2024) shows a towering forest of charred trees. Foliage and sky are noticeably absent as patches of red grass stick out against the gray forest floor. Evidence of destruction and devastation is now present everywhere. What was once unassuming becomes ominous. A single piece hovers alone on the wall behind you. *Murmuration* (2020) follows the yellow lines on a desolate highway as they turn and disappear into the golden smoke. Mountains and power lines remain barely visible in the middle and background. A murder of crows scatters across the frame — a scene reminiscent of Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963). The image is prophetic and also ambiguous. Are the crows flying away as the smoke overwhelms them and the flames grow closer? Or are they the first signs of life as they return to their scorched home? Personally, I read it as the former, but the artist reads

it as the latter, so interpretation remains up to you, the audience.

This exhibition is moody, atmospheric, troubling, and beautiful. Hays has expertly captured the exquisite contradiction at the heart of destruction's allure. The emotions that wash over you as you walk through this exhibition are complex and amorphous, intentionally so, while the goal of raising awareness of humanity's role in escalating wildfires is stark and undeniable. I encourage those who can attend to join me for my upcoming curator talk on Wednesday, September 16th, from 6–7 p.m., to learn more about this exhibition. Jessica Hays will also give an artist talk on Friday, October 2nd, from 6–7 p.m., followed by a book-making workshop on Saturday, October 3rd, from 1–3 p.m. Come discuss and take in this impactful and compelling exhibition.



Jessica Hays, *Murmuration*



Jessica Hays, *Flee*



Jessica Hays, *Skeletons*



Jessica Hays, *Safeway*

Adult Programs



Free! **Courage to Create (Morning)**
Weekly on Tuesdays, 10AM–12PM
■ Art-making for veterans, active duty military, and caregivers

Figure Drawing Studio
Weekly on Wednesdays, 6:30–8PM
■ Ongoing figure drawing studio open to all levels

Free! **Curator Talk: *The Sun Sets Midafternoon***
Saturday, September 16, 6–7PM
■ Learn more about the exhibition “The Sun Sets Midafternoon” with curator Gianna Sherman and fellow art lovers.

Free! **Panel Discussion: *JM Cooper: Adel Sheep Shearing, Sieban Live Stock Company***
Wednesday, September 23, 6–8PM
■ Learn more about this exhibition with a panel discussion.

Monoprint Workshop with Corwin Clairmont
Saturday, September 26, 1–4PM
■ Visiting artist Corwin Clairmont leads an adult monoprinting workshop in conjunction with his current exhibition.

Corks and Canvas
First Friday of the Month, 6:30–8:30PM
■ 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.

Cabs and Slabs
Last Friday of the Month, 6:30–8:30PM
■ 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!

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

For most up-to-date listings,
go to
holtermuseum.org/education
& holtermuseum.org/events

Youth Programs

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

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

Thursdays, 3:30-5:30pm. Ages 10-14.

Legomation Studio

An afterschool Lego camp with brick building, story building, and film! Participants will create their own story, building the set and casting the characters from Legos, direct a film, go through editing, and end with a movie of their own.

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 24
to Oct. 29



Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am. Ages 7-11.
Running for 5 sessions at a time, Sept. 22-Oct. 20 and Nov. 17-Dec. 8

ArtSpark

An introductory art class for ages 7-11 with elements of play and creativity through hands-on learning.

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 22
to Oct. 20



Mondays, Sept. 21-Oct. 19 from 3:00-5:00 PM. This campaign is for older ages, 10-16, and returning players.

Adventures in Cardboard: DnD in the Realm of AiC – Campaign 1

Ever gotten wrapped up in a story and started to imagine yourself as a character along for the journey? In this Dungeons and Dragons campaign, participants craft characters to form an adventuring party and take off into a fantasy world!

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 21
to Oct. 19



Mondays, 2:30-4:30pm. Ages 7-11.

Imagine that!

Explore and play with new-to-you and familiar materials in guided hands-on art making lessons with creative imaginative results!

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 21
to Dec. 14



Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30pm. Ages 8-12.

Art Smart – after school art class

Art history meets creative making! Learn about a different artist each week, exploring their artistic style and medium before breaking out to create your own piece of art.

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 22
to Dec. 8



Thursdays, 10:00-11:30am. Ages 12-16. 5 sessions at a time, Sept. 24-Oct. 29 & Nov. 5-Dec. 10

YAW – Young Artists Workshop

Work alongside a professional artist to learn the basics of making art. Ideal for the motivated artist who knows enough and wants to learn more!

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 24
to Oct. 29



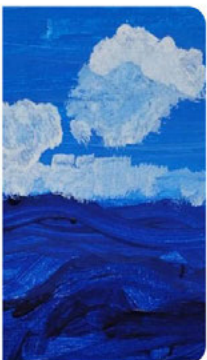
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm. Ages 8-13

Paint Drips

Introductory paint and drawing class for upper elementary and lower middle school ages!

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 23
to Dec. 9



Thursdays, 3:30-5:30pm. Ages 8-15.

Adventures in Cardboard: Armory and Games

Art class meets theater camp meets sports team. Summarized as creative outdoor play, this minimal structure high design class has participants learning to build structural forms with cardboard while engaging in improvisational roleplay while also playing outdoors.

[VIEW](#)

Sept. 24
to Dec. 10





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!

Artist Opportunities



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](#).

CALL TO ARTISTS!!

The Philipsburg Arts Fund First Annual
Juried Art Show - 2026
October 23rd - November 13th

"Light, Land, and Local Hands"

Join us in this amazing event to celebrate our local Montana Artists!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Submission Deadline: Sept 25th

Notice of Acceptance: Oct 5th

Open Night Reception: Oct 23rd 6-9pm

- Awards Presentation
- Refreshments and small bites
- Live music by our very own, Ben Larson and the Moondocks

Closing Night Special Event: November 12th 6-9pm

- Presentation from our OpenAir/Artists in Residence
- Refreshments and small bites
- Local live music

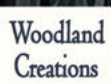
Double Category Show:

- Junior Category, Ages 10-17yrs
- Adult Category, Ages 18+

We are looking for Art in all forms:

- Painting
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Mixed Media
- Ceramics

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Complete details on how to submit your art, scan the QR code
or visit our website: www.philipsburgarts.org

128 E. Broadway St, Philipsburg, MT (above Zia's Restaurant & Bar, the old Antlers bar and bowling alley)