

January 2026

# HEART OF THE HOLTER

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Visit

Exhibitions

Education

Museum Shop

Donate



### From the Director's Corner

Dear Holter Friends and Family,

Greetings from the Holter! I have a secret to share – I don't like to say 'goodnight or goodbye,' I am definitely a 'good morning and hello' sort of gal. Hence, I am not a fan of New Year's Eve celebrations. BUT, I do love New Year's Day activities! In that vein, I wanted to thank all of our donors, members, visitors, artists, students, and community for your incredible generosity and support throughout 2025, because without YOU, 2026 wouldn't look nearly as lovely and exciting. We met our Annual Appeal goal of \$80,000 on the very last day of the year, and we will count all January donations towards this effort, too. We are so incredibly grateful that the Holter can continue to bring contemporary art to our community!

January is always so...dense and busy and sometimes a little chaotic. We turn over the entire museum, patch and paint, deep clean, do any major maintenance needed, and generally prepare for the rush of art activities that come with a new season. We will reopen to the public on January 16th at 10am with four new moving exhibits, including artists grappling with climate grief and devastation, relationships with the landscape and time, Native American identity and myths, and the unassuming power and beauty of traditional textile art and craft. I think it's interesting that there will be four different media being exhibited, too: painting, photography, weaving, and printmaking. Carol Hartman, Margo Geddes, Jason Elliott Clark and Meghan Spielman are all Montana-based artists who help continue to prove that Montana isn't just an agricultural powerhouse, but that we also have the ability to grow a vibrant and rigorous arts community.

These exhibits, specifically Carol Hartman's show *The Tipping Point* and Jason Elliott Clark's *Myths and Legends*, mark the beginning of a two-year curatorial and programming arc around a central theme of...

*Challenging Stasis: Confronting Climate Change and Our Relationship with the Landscape*. In 2026 and 2027, the museum is taking a deep dive into the work of many artists that are grappling with this important topic and visitors will be able to experience the transformative power of art. By using visual language to depict thought-provoking, beautiful, and relevant perspectives from artists and guest curators (who also might identify as scientists, journalists, politicians, historians, ranchers, writers, musicians, and story-tellers), we have an exciting, and daunting, calendar of exhibits for the next while. We invite you to explore these artworks and ideas with us. As the year rolls out, I will be sharing more news about "Challenging Stasis" exhibits, programs, and events, so stay tuned!

I leave you on a heavier note as I reflect on all that has happened in 2025 that has touched me deeply, and maybe some of you. While my life has been very blessed here in Montana (and that of the five previous generations of my ancestors), I am grieving the loss of life and the unraveling of many countries and regions which have been mired in and destroyed by war and violence. Many years ago, I read a book titled *Every Drop for Sale: Our Desperate Battle Over Water* by investigative journalist Jeffrey Rothfeder. He speculated that the next wars would be catalyzed by a safe drinking water crisis, and not by oil or other extractive resources that powerful people feel compelled to fight over. I have been thinking a lot about how war, however far away it may feel from Helena, MT, can still rock my world. Earlier this summer, I came across a quote by Ukrainian painter and drawer, Pavlo Makov, who beautifully sums up how I have felt in my life at critical moments: "You will never save the world with art, but it will help you survive." Art can touch us. Art can change us. Art can challenge us. Art can help us all see a more hopeful future.

My absolute best to all of you.  
**Christina**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Holter will be closed to the public January 1-15.

### January Exhibition Receptions and Artist Talks

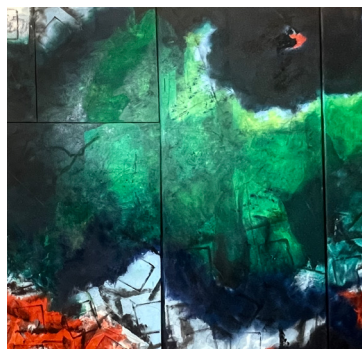
January 16  
5-8 p.m.

### Holter Membership Drive featuring Gentle Healing WC

January 23  
5-8 p.m.

# Upcoming Exhibitions

Opening  
Receptions on  
January 16th!



## Carol Hartman

### *The Tipping Point*

BAUCUS GALLERY

JAN 16 - MAR 29

Hartman's large abstract paintings serve as a call to action, engaging corporations and international museums to reflect on societal responsibility and the urgency of protecting the environment. Her mission is to ignite dialogue, challenge perspectives, and inspire meaningful change through the transformative power of art.



## Jason Elliott Clark

### *Myths and Legends*

BAIR GALLERY

JAN 16 - APR 12

In this series of prints from the Missoula Art Museum collection, Clark explores Algonquin legends, personal stories, and misinformation about Native American Indian culture today. The works in the exhibition focus mainly on Clark's early career as a printmaker in the University of Montana's MFA program (2004) and soon after.



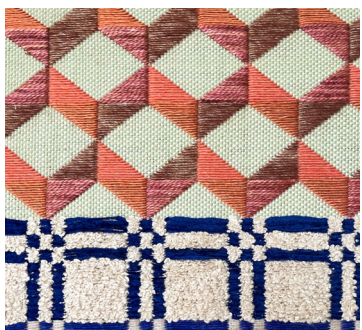
## Margo Geddes

### *La Durée*

MILLIKAN GALLERY

JAN 16 - MAR 29

As a photographer, Geddes is "interested in the small particularities of time experienced, the flicker of one's eye across a scene; focus, refocus, the moments that collectively help us describe and locate ourselves in the world."



## Meghan Spielman

### *Windows and Doors*

NICHOLSON/HELD GALLERIES

JAN 16 - MAR 8

Meghan Spielman's series of hand-woven artworks distills and magnifies the iconography of historical American coverlets and quilts while also evaluating our complex relationship with domestic craft heirloom objects.

Exhibits sponsored by:

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS  
arts.gov

MONTANA  
ARTS COUNCIL

MAGDA  
Montana Art Gallery Directors Association

MONTANA  
CULTURAL  
TRUST



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

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

# From the Holter Vault: **Featured work from our Permanent Collection**



**David Nash, *Ash Dome*, 1998.**

Direct gravure print, published by Crown Point Press. Permanent Collection of The Holter Museum of Art, gift of Anne Appleby.

In 1977, British artist David Nash planted a ring of 22 Ash trees in an undisclosed location in Wales. Over the next 40 years, Nash nurtured, pruned, and grafted the trees as they grew together, forming a dynamic, dome-like shape. The [Ash Dome](#) continued to be a source of inspiration for Nash, who created numerous prints and drawings of the structure. Although the artist's original intent was for *Ash Dome* to outlive him, a condition known as Ash Dieback Disease infected the trees in 2018, and Nash, now 80 years old, has only images to remember them by. This work was generously gifted to the Holter by Anne Appleby as part of a portfolio entitled *Why Draw a Landscape*, which features depictions of various unique landscapes.

## BECOME A HOLTER MEMBER

**Memberships are a great way to support us, and now we're delighted to offer even more perks for members! 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 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
- 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
- 1 free beer every month at Ten Mile Creek Brewery
- \$1 off your first drink at Gulch Distillers
- \$5 off any \$15 purchase at Café Zydeco
- Free sprinkles with single cone purchase at Big Dipper

Image: Soojin Choi, *Cruel Sweet* (detail).



**Click to Become a Member!**



# Annual Appeal 2025



**Help the Holter keep its light bright!**

Thanks to our community, the Holter met this year's Annual Appeal goal of \$80,000! Our most sincere thanks goes out to all who supported, donated, and advocated for the Holter in 2025. We can't wait to continue fulfilling our mission of bringing art to you in the new year.

If you'd still like to contribute, our Annual Appeal continues until January 31st.

**CLICK HERE  
TO READ MORE**

**CLICK HERE  
TO DONATE**



*Membership*  
**EVENT**

**January 23, 2026 | 6-8pm**

Unwind and explore at the Holter! Enjoy a micro yoga class with **Gentle Healing and Wellness**, take a guided tour of the galleries, and discover the benefits of becoming a Holter member. Just \$5 to attend!



**YOGA IN AN ART MUSEUM?**

*Sign me up!*

A member already? Bring a non member friend and receive a special gift as a thank you!

For details about the events or to RSVP, visit [holtermuseum.org/events](https://holtermuseum.org/events)



## *Grand Re-Opening*

From January 1st until January 15th, the Holter will be closed for a complete museum turnover of exhibitions. On January 16th, 2026, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., the Holter will host an opening reception for four brand-new exhibitions! These exhibitions touch on a variety of topics, from myth and identity to climate and landscape to domesticity and craft.

Carol Hartman's exhibition, *The Tipping Point*, in our Baucus gallery, explores the havoc climate change wreaks on our world. The various paintings in this show focus on toxic ponds, wildfires, hurricanes, drought, fracking, and industrial decay. Her large-scale abstract paintings evoke a sense of being enveloped by ever-engrossing, unfolding devastation as it becomes a more pressing issue in our lives with each passing year. Hartman's work is political in nature and demands a call to action from its viewers.

Working from the back of the museum to the front, we have Margo Geddes' exhibition *La Durée* in our Millikan gallery. Her work is an assortment of cyanotypes and toned cyanotypes arranged in diptychs, triptychs, and grids. She has also included a small handful of handmade books. Geddes' work and artistic philosophy are inspired primarily by the French painter Paul Cezanne. Cezanne rejected photography when it first emerged, implying that it discouraged a "duration in looking" compared to painting. Geddes' goal is to encourage this process, "an oscillation between the past and future that never fully rests," with her own work. Her work evokes a quiet contemplation and a sense of isolation, not necessarily melancholically, but a pensive observation that requires inward reflection from the viewer.

Following Geddes' work, we move to the Bair Gallery, where we find *Myths and Legends: Prints from the Missoula Art Museum Collection* by Jason Elliott Clark. Clark focuses on the mythologies and enduring stories passed on by the Algonquin people. His work is humorous while tackling deeper messages about colonialism and legacy. The stories he portrays were experienced firsthand and contribute to his understanding and respect for the world around him. His work encourages viewers to experience these myths from a contemporary, playful, and political perspective.

Lastly, we have *Windows and Doors* by Meghan Spielman in our Nicholson and Held galleries. Spielman's art aims to elevate the theme of domesticity through intricate patterns, craft, and design. Her work is enlarged to dramatic proportions to emphasize the significance of the *Windows and Doors* title, which is meant to demonstrate the intellectual observation that we look through windows and pass through doors. Spielman's work asks viewers to contemplate their relationship with textiles as they are elevated from the domestic domain into contemporary artwork.

We hope you join us next Friday to hear from three of these incredible artists, Carol Hartman, Margo Geddes, and Meghan Spielman, from 6:30 to about 7:15. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming curator talks, happening during Holter Late Nights on the third Wednesday of each month starting in February. During these talks, we will dive deeper into our exhibitions, provide context, and ask important questions about the role contemporary art plays in our lives. More on these to come!

# Weekly Classes: Spring

## **ArtFeeds (Middle School)** **Mondays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

This workshop allows Middle School kids to work with artists exploring ways to use visual arts and writing to help navigate life while expressing in a space shared with peers.

[learn more](#)

## **Imagine That!** **Mondays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Explore and play with new-to-you and familiar materials in guided hands-on art making lessons with creative imaginative results! Ages 7-11.

[learn more](#)

## **ArtSpark** **Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

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

[learn more](#)

## **ArtSmart** **Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

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. Ages 8-12.

[learn more](#)

## **D&D with Adventures in Cardboard** **Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Explore the realm of AiC through Dungeons and Dragons tabletop gaming. Ages 8-16.

[learn more](#)

## **Art for Survival** **Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

A visual arts and writing workshop that allows High School participants to work with artists exploring ways to use visual arts and writing to help them navigate life.

[learn more](#)

## **Little Artists** **Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Encourage your toddler's curiosity and independence in this interactive experience for young artists and their caregivers. 18 months -5 years (with guardian).

[learn more](#)

## **D&D with Adventures in Cardboard** **Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Explore the realm of AiC through Dungeons and Dragons tabletop gaming. Ages 8-16.

[learn more](#)

## **After School Teen Arts Council** **Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

ATAC is an opportunity for creatively-minded teens to come together and become advocates for the arts among their peers as well as the community as a whole.

[learn more](#)

## **Figure Drawing Studio** **Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.**

This ongoing figure drawing studio is open to all levels! Bring your own media. Adults only.

[learn more](#)

## **Young Artist Workshop** **Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.**

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! Ages 12-16.

[learn more](#)

## **Adventures in Cardboard: Armory and Games** **Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Join us for a class that sneaks in structural engineering and sculptural practice with a dose of cardboard and whimsy. Ages 8-15.

[learn more](#)

## **Advanced D&D with Adventures in Cardboard** **Sundays, 1-4 p.m.**

Explore the realm of AiC through Dungeons and Dragons tabletop gaming. Ages 8-16. Prior D&D experience required.

[learn more](#)

## **Registration for Spring Classes is Now Open!**

**Classes begin on January 20.**  
**(Monday classes begin on January 26.)**

[To view ALL classes, click here!](#)

**Summer Camp registration will open to Holter members on January 17th at 10 a.m.**  
**Camps will be announced soon!**

## At The Holter Shop

## ELK MOUNTAIN POTTERY



Caleb Pattin is the potter behind the wheel of Elk Mountain Pottery. He has been working with clay since childhood, taking a short break for his years of military service and building a successful construction business with his brother. His pieces are heavily inspired by Montana's mountains and wildlife, Caleb and his wife Julia's animals, and a touch of his Ohio roots. The Holter Shop has a large variety of functional works from Elk Mountain Pottery; from mugs and bowls to trays and vases. Part of the beauty in Caleb's work is that there is something for everyone- he "enjoy[s] producing diverse pieces so that there is something for everyone on [his] table. I almost never go to the wheel with a plan in mind, and I prefer to let the clay speak to me." If you are a veteran, active military member, or their caregiver you can join Caleb in an upcoming session on wheel throwing as a part of our Courage to Create class. Dates to be announced soon!

# Event Space Rental



## Host your next event at the Holter Museum!

- Staff Meeting / Corporate Training
- Holiday Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Memorial Services
- Weddings and Receptions
- Small Business Networking Events
- Comedy Events
- Luncheons
- Corporate Social Happy Hours
- ...and MORE!

**Holter Museum of Art**  
**12 E. Lawrence Street, Helena, MT 59601**

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

**Next Month...**

# JAZZ *and just* Desserts



**HOLTER**  
MUSEUM of ART

*with* **The Wilbur Rehmann Quintet**  
and Helena's Up-And-Coming Jazz Musicians

February 27, 2026

• 7 - 9 pm •

at the  
**Holter Museum of Art**  
12 E. Lawrence Street  
Helena, MT 59601

Image: James Todd, *Mike and Jim Todd* (detail).  
1973 Woodcut. Permanent Collection of The Holter  
Museum of Art, gift of the artist.

**Tickets available soon!**