

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE – YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM PARTNER
TO PRESENT “ART TRAILS: ASCENT TO THE ROCKIES: NOV. 11 & 12

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Art history, cultural and geographic influences, and artist intent all figure in what helps us appreciate art. Attendees at the two-day conference “Art Trails: Ascent to the Rockies,” Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, will hear how eight regional speakers view these artistic influences on their work. "Our speakers will consider how the Rocky Mountains and its attendant plains have inhabited their art. They will speak to the ways they epitomize regional artists," according to Michael Fried, a YAM Board member who is organizing the event as a collaboration between the Yellowstone Art museum and Rocky Mountain College.

“We want to afford the opportunity for artists and audience to interact meaningfully. Especially we hope they reveal the historical context for contemporary artists from the special niches we so enjoy in our part of the world,” Fried said.

Speakers at the conference will include Jim Baken, an RMC professor of fine art whose abstract impressionist and modernist motifs have been featured in many galleries and exhibits in the Northwest; Dan Flores, a professor of history at the University of Montana and author of “Visions of the Big Sky”; Brandon Reintjes, curator of art at Montana Museum of Art and Culture; Molly Murphy, an Oglala-Lakota artist; Katie Knight, an artist and educator; John Giarrizzo, professor of art, Northwest College; Patrick Zentz, artist; and Jeff Anderson, artist.

Linda Ewert, YAM education director, will lead an exhibition tour of the "Capture the Moment," the series of dramatic Pulitzer Prize Photographs from 1942 to present. Deborah Kline Sanderman, Carbon County Arts Guild, will moderate an

all-speakers panel that concludes the conference.

“This unique event which will bring living artists and their work center stage for people to see and talk to. We hope, for all of us, to enhance our understanding and admiration for artists working where we live,” said Robyn Peterson, YAM executive director.

RMC-YAM sponsored conference will start on Friday morning at the RMC campus. An 11 a.m tour and reception in RMC's Ryniker-Morrison Gallery will conclude the morning session. The YAM campus will host the afternoon session, followed by a 5 p.m. reception. The conference will continue at the YAM on Saturday.

Major sponsors for the conference include Humanities Montana, Susan Scott Heyneman, Helori Graff, Barb Skelton and Michael and Karen Fried.

The YAM exhibitions during the conference include the Pulitzer Prize Photographs – “Capture the Moment”; Neltje; and Molly Murphy’s Contemporary Native American Beadwork. RMC’s Ryniker-Morrison Gallery features Jim Baken’s "Elk Series with Clubs: From the Bitterroots to the Beartooths."

To find out more about the speakers you can find their abstracts and bios at [yamlist-Nov11conf.html](#). To register, use the attached pdf of a brochure. There you can find details on dates and times, for the conference locations.

Cost for the conference is \$20 for YAM members; \$25 for general public. For more information, contact Michael Fried, Yellowstone Art Museum, (406) 254-8787 / mfried@bresnan.net or Jim Baken, Rocky Mountain College fine arts professor (406) 657-1135 / bakenj@rocky.edu.

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