

INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION OPENS FEB. 26 at RMC

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A jpgs is attached: Tomb, 2005, stained wood, lighting, mixed media including water, 12 x 12 x 12 feet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery presents “Exposure/Enclosure,” an interactive exhibition of large sculpture by Phoebe Knapp.

The opening reception is scheduled for 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 26, 2009.

The artist will give a gallery talk and answer questions at 5:30. Knapp’s show continues through April 3.

“Exposure/Enclosure” includes a new iteration of her interactive piece, “Tomb.” The inner two chambers of the artwork are placed in the gallery. The outer 12’ x 12’ x 12’ latticed cube is erected on the lawn between Tech Hall and Rocky’s library. Knapp transforms it into a walk-in camera obscura.

Not only are viewers able to enter a labyrinth within formal gallery walls, but, outdoors in the camera obscura, they may experience a “veiled chamber” within which outside reality is reflected and projected. With simple materials -- wood, light, canvas -- brought boldly together in large-size sculpture, Knapp engages the viewer not only visually, but physically, according to Jane Waggoner Deschner, RMC gallery director.

A camera obscura brings an image of the outside environment within. Light travels in a straight line and when some of the rays reflected from a bright subject pass through a small hole in thin material they do not scatter, but cross and reform as an upside down image on a flat surface held parallel to the hole. The earliest mention of this type of device was by the Chinese philosopher Mo-Ti (5th century BC). In 1490, Leonardo Da Vinci gave two clear descriptions of the camera obscura in his notebooks. In the 17th and 18th century many artists were aided by the use of the camera obscura as a drawing tool. The pinhole camera is basically an camera obscura fitted with light sensitive paper.

Phoebe Knapp was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and educated at the Rhode Island School of Design. She owns and operates the Grapevine Ranch in Big Horn County and resides in Billings, working from her studio on Montana Avenue. She has exhibited widely in the region and her work is in many collections throughout the West, including the permanent collection of the Yellowstone Art Museum.

The public is invited to the exhibition and reception. The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery is on the first floor in Tech Hall.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and by appointment.

For more information, contact Jane Waggoner Deschner, jwd@bresnan.net or 406-248-7494.

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