

RYNIKER-MORRISON GALLERY EXHIBIT: "WITH HAMMER AND BELL -- ART FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE"

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Re: Katie Knight, "With Hammer and Bell: Art for Social Justice"

Exhibition: March 8–April 1, 2010

Artist lecture: Thursday, April 1, 3:00 pm
"Art, Society and Transformation"

Sponsored by Humanities Montana, Montana Cultural Trust and the National Endowment for the Humanities' "We the People," with Rocky's Institute for Peace Studies

Closing reception: Thursday, April 1, 4:00–6:00 pm

Ryniker-Morrison Gallery, Tech Hall
Rocky Mountain College
1511 Poly Drive
Billings, Montana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- Rocky Mountain College is proud to present the exhibition, "With Hammer and Bell: Art for Social Justice," installation, print making and photography by Katie Knight, at the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery in Tech Hall.

The exhibition dates are March 8 –April 1, 2010, with a closing reception honoring the artist on Thursday, April 1, 4:00–6:00 p.m. Preceding the reception, Knight will present "Art, Society and Transformation," a lecture and slide show at 3:00 p.m. in #14 Tech Hall.

Knight's presentation is sponsored by Humanities Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust and the National Endowment for the Humanities' "We the People," with Rocky's Institute for Peace Studies. Her show and lecture

were arranged to coincide with “Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate,” an exhibition she curated while Education Curator at Helena’s Holter Museum. Here, artists from across the nation transformed white supremacist hate books, reflecting on how we respond to hate and stimulating healing dialogue. This show has been traveling Montana for two years and is on view at the Yellowstone Art Museum, March 25 – June 26, 2010.

Katie Knight’s lecture and visual presentation begins with art by individuals whose work expresses social conscience and moves on to consider the role of art in social movements. Michelangelo is not thought of as a social critic but his work challenged the power structure of Renaissance Florence and provoked vigorous controversy. Picasso’s massive cubist work “Guernica” is regarded as one of the most powerful statements ever made against war. Knight offers historic and contemporary examples, including work by artists featured in “Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate.”

Of her own artwork, Katie Knight writes: “Creating art – photography, sculptures, writing, and slide-sound productions – is the way I investigate urgent situations, process my intense emotional responses, and participate in consciousness-raising actions. I witness chaos and suffering far beyond my control. However, overwhelming global issues can be approached on an individual, human scale. In fact, for most of us to be emotionally responsive, complex issues must be considered through specific human stories. I make photographs and gather individual narratives which add dimension to dialogues, deepen understanding, and encourage progressive social change. I use photography empathetically to explore, research, and interact with the world.

“While I have been a photographer for thirty-seven years, I have also been continuously engaged in the construction of sculptural forms and images created by hand. I begin with concerns that are closely related to those in my photographic work. When building in three-dimensional space, I process my emotions, give free reign to imagination, and remember actual dreams such as the one where my house fills up with water. For me, sculpting is an intuitive, open-ended process of thinking with my hands as I combine colors and images. I transform materials, watching forms grow from my subconscious where joys and fears intertwine. Through the reflective process of sculpting and painting, ambiguities and ironies come to light. In my studio I experience a sanctuary for introspective creativity that rejuvenates me, providing a psychic balance for the extroverted, civically-minded

documentary projects. Thus, art-making is like a pendulum that swings back and forth between the interior images that flow from my heart and hands during solo hours of contemplation, and the photography, writing, and sound media that I use to document and impact the world around me.”

Knight earned a Master of Arts in Education from Northern Michigan University and later a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota. She exhibits throughout the region. As an activist, Knight is currently working on community gardens and human rights education through her current series, *Montana Solutions: Envision Earth Healing*. The joy of making art with students of all ages has given her great satisfaction for thirty-four years, and she has taught in diverse cultural settings. For eight years, she was Curator of Education at the Holter Museum of Art. Currently, she teaches art classes at a Helena high school and Carroll College. In 2008 she received significant awards from the Montana Human Rights Network and Montana Amnesty International.

The public is invited to the exhibition, lecture and closing reception. All events are free. The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery is on the first floor in Tech Hall, the building between the library and the football field. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and by appointment (contact Jane Deschner, 248–7494).

3/09/2010