

## RMC RECEIVES CHATHAM COLLECTION FROM HELORI GRAFF

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College has received a remarkable collection of Russell Chatham artist proof lithographs as a gift from Helori Graff, owner and president of Artcraft Printers.

“If there is a Western landscape artist whose work could truly be called iconic, Chatham’s work would be it,” said Michael Mace, RMC president. “We are fortunate to have this extraordinary collection.”

The Graff gift includes 15 signed and numbered lithographs, with the artist cipher, and is valued at over \$80,000.

“I believe in private education and I want to support it,” Graff said of her gift. “I have watched Rocky Mountain College grow and flourish and I want to be a part of its success.”

Mace said he hopes the Chatham collection could become an integral part of a new science building the College is planning on building.

In addition to lithography, Chatham, who lives in Livingston, Mont., also produces original oil paintings, which currently sell for tens of thousands of dollars. There is a multi-year waiting list for commissions, but according to his dealers, he prefers printing lithographs as the more challenging art form.

Despite being a print, Chatham's lithographs have little to do with modern process lithography, which always starts from a photograph and typically only uses 4 colors. His art lithographs may have 30 or 40 different layers of color, all of which have to be hand drawn on to the printing plate, and the colors selected for the final effect. To see some of the early proofs of one of his prints is to see a study in vivid and unusual colors from which it is almost impossible to conceive of the final subtle shadings and quiet colors.

Collectors of Chatham include a who’s who of celebrities. They include authors Peter Matthiessen, Jim Harrison, Thomas McGuane, the late James Crumley, Richard Ford, and Rick Bass; editors and publishers, notably Rolling Stone’s Jann Wenner; former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent; art critic Robert Hughes; media correspondents Tom Brokaw, the late Ed Bradley, Morley Safer, and the late Charles Kuralt; entrepreneurs Yvon Chouinard, Thomas Siebel, Paul Allen, and William Randolph Hearst, III; chef Mario Batali; entertainment personalities Jeff Bridges, Sean Connery, Jimmy Buffet, Jack Nicholson, Robert Redford, and Harrison Ford.

“And, now, thanks to Helori, Rocky Mountain College,” said RMC Board Chair Barb Skelton.

Publications about Chatham include a catalogue called One Hundred Paintings, and another about his original lithographs called The Missouri Headwaters. Chatham has been profiled in Esquire, Southwest Art, People, U.S. Art, Antiques and Fine Art, Architectural Digest, Smart, The Denver Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Francisco Examiner, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, The Seattle Times, The Associated Press, National Public Radio’s Morning Edition, and Fresh Air, PBS, and CBS Sunday Morning.

Chatham’s writing includes hundreds of articles, short stories, essays and reviews about fly-fishing, bird hunting and conservation as well as a number of pieces on food and wine. Since 1967 his work has appeared in Esquire, Sports Illustrated, The Atlantic, Men’s Journal, Outside, Sports Afield, Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, Gray’s Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, Fly Rod and Reel, as well as in dozens of newspapers and smaller specialty magazines. His books include The Angler’s Coast, Silent Seasons, and Dark Waters. Several new books are in progress. He is the founder and publisher of Clark City Press, which, since 1989, has published nearly forty books of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, art, photography, and children’s classics, all of which have given the Livingston based company a sound national reputation.

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