

SALLY McINTOSH NAMED RYNIKER-MORRISON GALLERY DIRECTOR

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BILLINGS – Hers is a familiar face in Billings, especially in the art world where Sally McIntosh continues to organize the downtown Artwalk and the summer art academy, now in its 12th year.

“I like to stay busy and I still love the whole interaction with artists and the community,” McIntosh said.

This year she’ll add to her role as art educator and promoter the job of managing Rocky Mountain College’s Ryniker-Morrison Gallery.

“I want the gallery to inspire the whole Rocky community – and that means on and off campus – and I want it to honor the two great artists and educators it is named after, Alice Ryniker and Robert Morrison,” McIntosh said, describing her mission as new museum director.

McIntosh said she will present exhibits showcasing student and faculty art as well as established artists.

“I always, always want it to be a learning experience. So we won’t simply show the work of artists. We want the artists to come in so they will be able to visit with people, answer questions, talk about their work, and we want artists who will invite our students to their studio to see how they work,” she said.

McIntosh’s passion about art as a learning experience derives from a lifetime in education. The Billings Central graduate earned her teaching degree at the University of Montana. She taught elementary grades in Billings, Long Island, New York, Berkeley, Calif., and Absarokee. She was Director of Student Services for the North Bennet Street School in Boston, Mass., a school of fine craftsmanship, from 1980-89.

“How’s that for wide range of places and experiences,” she laughed.

She returned to Billings when her brother, Bill, died to take charge of his business, McIntosh Art Co. She also opened Bill McIntosh Gallery.

“I did that for 18 years until I felt it was time to do other things,” she said.

Among the other things, in addition to managing RMC’s gallery, is helping with the Babcock Theatre “artists in the arcade” project.

“I’m really having fun with all that I’m doing now. When you’re operating a business like I was for so many year you don’t always get the opportunity or have the time,

actually, to do many of the things you'd really like to do. I have that time and energy now."

Delighted with McIntosh assuming the gallery job are both RMC fine arts professors, Mark Moak and Jim Baken.

"Sally's always been supportive of Rocky and the art department. When she operated McIntosh Art, if she didn't have something we needed in stock, she got it, and then she sold it to our students at a discount," Moak said. "She employed Rocky students. She came to all our shows. She epitomizes what is involved with being a part of what we want to do here."

Baken remembers McIntosh from his days growing up in Absarokee when she was a teacher.

"She was a friend then, is now, and always will be," he said. "I think she's the perfect fit us."

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