

100 Mile Radius:

Recent Work by Frances Carlson, Lisa Easton, Christine McKay, Deb Schmit & Laurie Stevens





Paris Gibson Square
MUSEUM OF ART

Presents

100 Mile Radius:

*Recent Work By
Frances Carlson
Lisa Easton
Christine McKay
Deb Schmit
&
Laurie A. Stevens*

August 19 - October 15, 2011
Artists' Reception 5:30-7:30pm Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Exhibition Sponsored by:



Foreword & Acknowledgements:

The Square is pleased to present recent work by five area artists who encourage each other's professional accomplishments and development through their friendship and a shared love for the region. Not surprisingly they each live within the 100 mile radius of Great Falls, Montana, that inspired this exhibition, offering artistic points of view relative to their unique perspectives about where they live and work. This exhibition is presented in the Great Falls Clinic Community Gallery, which is partially intended for use by art related groups in the area, and exhibition proposals are considered by the museum's curator of art throughout the year. Local patrons will recognize works by these accomplished artists and we thank them for contributing to the museum's exhibition program.

The inspiration for this show lies in the High Plains of central Montana that these artists call home. Though their styles and media are diverse, they share a strong love for this place. They all wrestle with the complex responses engendered by a place that can be heart achingly beautiful and tediously difficult all on the same day. This exhibition explores the variety and commonality of their artistic responses.



Frances Carlson

After a 25 year career as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Frances Carlson decided to risk going back to her first love, art. For more than 20 years she has lived with her family by the Sun River in Great Falls, Montana.

With little formal training, Frances has drawn upon her intense desire to make sense of what she sees. With a father who grew up in China, and a mother who grew up in Hawaii, as a child she was surrounded by Asian Art. Later she studied the masters of the Western Hemisphere, and her effort to reconcile the two is evident in her work.

Frances has found the artists and galleries of Montana supportive, and she has been juried into a number of shows both in state and on the West Coast. She has won a number of awards for her designs and drawings. Frances Carlson works primarily in pastel and charcoal, though she is constantly exploring new media.



In Place, 2010, acrylic and charcoal on Clayboard, 8 x 8"



Dry Year, 2009, pastel, 9.5 x 17.5"



The Man Spoke to the Horse, 2010, pastel, 21 x 24.5"



The Horse Spoke to the Man, 2010, pastel, 21 x 24.5"



Lisa Easton

“My interest in human connectivity and relationships informs my work in functional design. This has resulted in the creation of sculptures made from a variety of materials such as concrete, mild and stainless steel, aluminum, stone and salvaged wood. These become visual, physical metaphors that invite experiences of personal contact between two people.”—Lisa Easton

Lisa Easton lives in Great Falls, Montana. Known for re-purposing materials commonly used in building and industry, she constructs abstract narratives that depict natural and social histories of an unromanticized West. Inspired equally by the often hidden richness and the spectacular harshness of north-central Montana, her fine art and functional pieces simultaneously nod to poetry and pragmatism. Lisa Easton received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from Montana State University in 1993. A sculpture and benches by the artist are sited on the grounds of Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls. The Museum commissioned a second sculpture, *Updraft*, for its permanent collection in 2010. Easton designed and installed a sculptural wall and water feature for a medical clinic in the Bitterroot Valley, Montana, in 2011.



Installation view of (left to right) *Prairie Embodied #2*, *Prairie Embodied #1*, *Prairie Embodied #3*, all 2011, steel, soil & grass, 32” high x variable widths



Prairie Embodied #1, 2011, steel, soil & grass, 32" high x variable widths



Sweetness, 2011, steel, beeswax & Russian Thistle, 32" high x variable widths



Hunger, 2011, steel & flyswatters, 32" high x variable widths



Christine McKay

“My greatest love is drawing. When I discovered clay, I found a way to incorporate two passions—drawing and sculpting. I prefer to have my hands and fingers directly engaged with my medium. So, I am happily drawn to those mediums where I can brush my fingers over a page or a clay surface, feeling the response of those elements under my fingertips. There is rarely a time, when I touch clay or charcoal, that I’m not acutely

aware of a deep connection to ancient artisans. It’s as if time doesn’t exist and there is no barrier between me and a Paleolithic cave artist or a Neolithic potter/sculptor. I’m quite a loner, but in those moments I am touching in with the deepest of friends and times I wish I had known.”—Christine McKay

Cascade, Montana artist, Christine McKay, was born in Honolulu and raised in Seattle. She has been drawing since she was two. Her birthplace, the lush Northwest and the inland Rocky Mountain country have all had a tremendous influence on her artwork. Indigenous cultures from these diverse locales shaped her interests and subsequent research into prehistory and its ancient art forms. Interest in various world mythologies has also been an important part of her vision.

Christine attended the University of Montana, Missoula, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Fine Arts with an emphasis in drawing while augmenting those studies with anthropology and archaeology. She works out of her private studio where her mountain surroundings provide ample inspiration. Her work is found all over the United States and as far away as Poland and Japan. She has participated in a number of exhibits, including the ANA at the Holter Museum, Helena; the Governor’s Mansion, Helena; and Gallery 16, Great Falls.



Big Belt-Little Belt: The Belt Range Mountains
2011, porcelain, 44 x 10 x 10”



Niitahtaa Omahkinaa—Blackfeet: River Elders, 2011, porcelain, driftwood & horsehair, 12 x 12 x 30"



Centered: The Great Falls, 2011, porcelain, 14 x 12"



Rails of Silence: Cascade, Montana, 2011, porcelain, paper, bronze & iron railroad spike, 16 x 10.5 x 5.5"



Deb Schmit

“My paintings are mostly about the figure, either human or animal. I love to use the figure to tell a story about the land and the emotional ties we have to it. A story that is etched into a face or hands and one that speaks across time. I want the viewer to look deeper than just the paint layers, to experience those subtle ties that connect us all.”—Deb Schmit

Born 1962 in Helena, Montana, Deb Schmit always knew she would be an artist. She started oil painting at the age of 5 and showing her work at age 12. Deb and her family own a small cattle ranch near Cascade, Montana. Her studio and the ranch are located on the Jones Homestead in Chesnet Valley, built around 1897. The ranch, one of the grandest of its time, is a constant source of inspiration and subject matter, with astonishing views of the Big Belt Mountains, Square Butte and the Rocky Mountain Front.

Deb Schmit is an award-winning artist whose work has been juried into many regional and national exhibitions, including; *Oil Painters of America Western Regional*, the *Western Master's Art Show & the C.M. Russell Art Auction* (now called *The Russell*.) Her work includes portrait, figurative and landscape painting. She is a member of the Oil Painter's of America and the Montana Painter's Alliance.



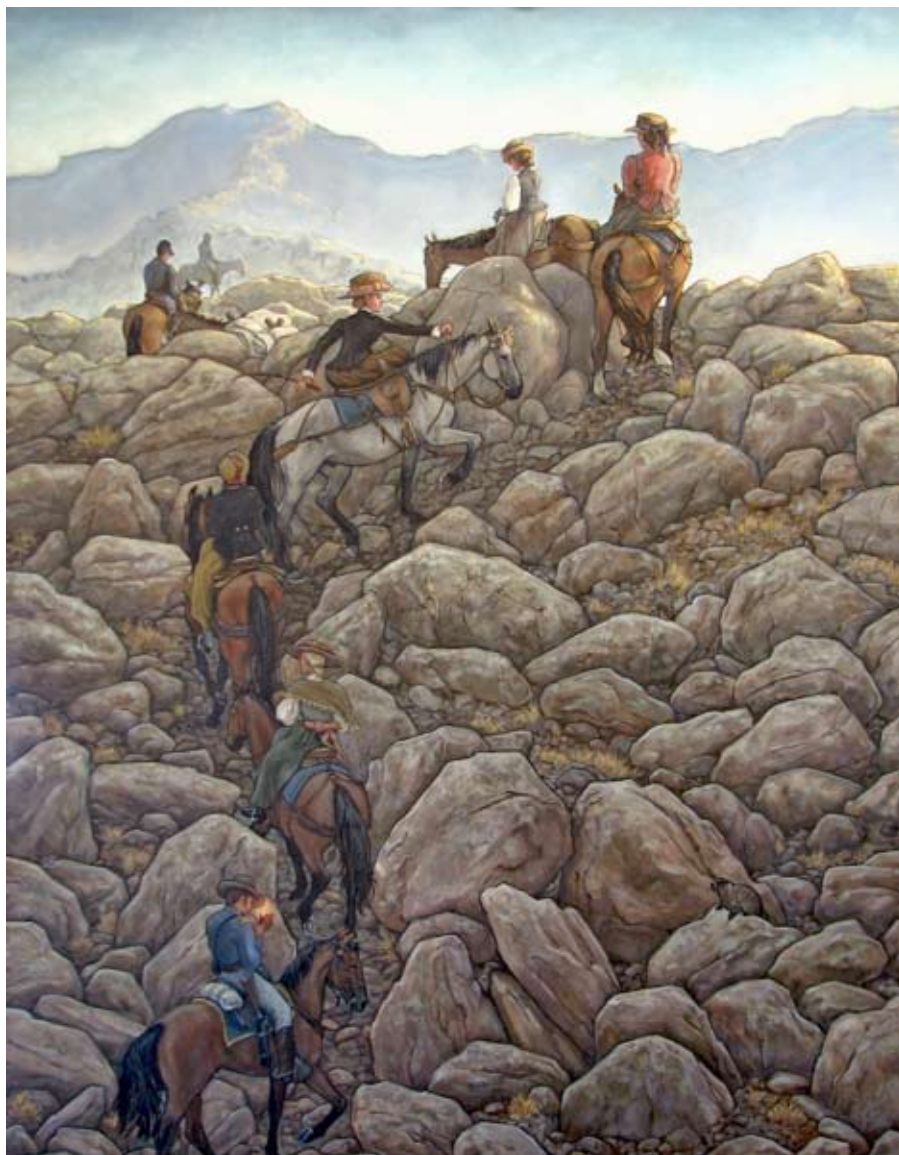
Listen Up, oil on canvas panel, 10 x 8"



Calves in a Spring Blizzard: Montana Winter, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 12 x 16"



Harvest Wagon, oil on linen, 36 x 46"



Foray to the Front, oil on linen, 46 x 36"

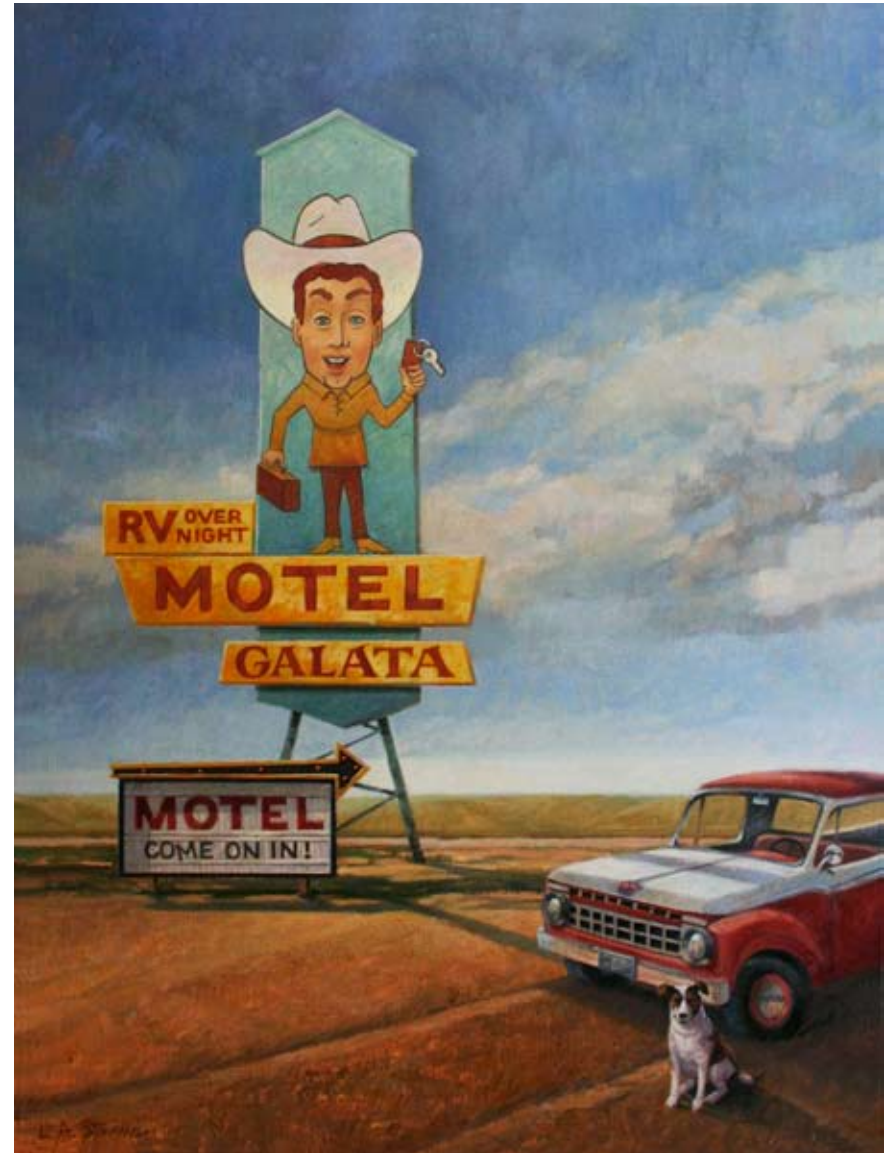


Laurie Stevens

“When we were first developing the concept for *100 Mile Radius*, my thought was to pick particular places that were indicative of our general landscape types—the mountains, the plains, etc. As time has progressed, I have moved toward a deeper representation of the things that strike me emotionally—the seasons, the elements and the big sky with its vast openness.

Of course, I have also included reference to life within this radius—the people, the animals, the stories. With much respect for this place we call home, I quote Glen Law in *Montana Spaces*: ‘Montana’s special gift is space, landscape made personal; space that reaches out to the horizon then comes back and gets under your skin. It reaches inward, wraps itself around your soul, incubates and grows.’ In this show, I strive toward a visual representation of Law’s words.”—Laurie Stevens

Originally from Montana, Laurie spent 11 years in Los Angeles working as an artist in the entertainment industry. She has done murals, movie backdrops, set design, matte painting and other illustration. Laurie returned to Montana many years ago, first living in the mountains near Augusta. She now lives on the family ranch near Cascade. Since the move home, her focus in art tends to be about place—about natural landscapes, the people and animals that have lived close to the land over time.



Motel Galata (On the High-Line), 2011, oil, 48 x 36”



Before the Falls, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"



Alpine Sunset, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"



A Special Place, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"

Exhibition Checklist

Frances Carlson

Open Spaces, 2011, pastel, 15.5 x 19.5"
Delicacy, 2010, acrylic and charcoal on Clayboard, 8 x 8"
Tracks, 2011, charcoal, 11 x 11.5"
The Woman Who Became a Horse: 2011, pastel, 13 x 19"
Winter Light, 2011, charcoal, 21 x 28"
The Collector, 2011, pastel, 21 x 29"
Shutting Down for Winter, 2010, acrylic and charcoal on Clayboard, 8 x 8"
The Horse Spoke to the Man, 2010, pastel, 21 x 24.5"
The Man Spoke to the Horse, 2010, pastel, 21 x 24.5"
Vigilance, 2010, acrylic and charcoal on Clayboard, 8 x 8"
In Place, 2010, acrylic and charcoal on Clayboard, 8 x 8"
Dry Year, 2009, pastel, 9.5 x 17.5"
Pushing Back: After the Fire, 2009, Giclee print of original drawing manipulated & mounted on Foamcore, 26 x 50"

Lisa Easton

Study with Raptor Skull and Peppermint(s) #1, 2011, ink, pencil & marker, 8 x 8"
Study with Raptor Skull and Peppermint(s) #2, 2011, ink, pencil & marker, 8 x 8"
Composition in Steel and Red Paint #1, 2011, steel & encaustic, 8 x 8"
Composition in Steel and Red Paint #2, 2011, steel & encaustic, 8 x 8"
Prairie Embodied #1, 2011, steel, soil & grass, 32" high x variable widths
Prairie Embodied #2, 2011, steel, soil & grass, 32" high x variable widths
Prairie Embodied #3, 2011, steel, soil & grass, 32" high x variable widths
Sweetness, 2011, steel, beeswax & Russian Thistle, 32" high x variable widths
Hunger, 2011, steel & flyswatters, 32" high x variable widths

Christine McKay

Niitahntaa Omahkinaa—Blackfeet: River Elders, 2011, porcelain, driftwood & horsehair, 12 x 12 x 30"
Answers in the Wind: Judith Basin, 2011, porcelain, leather, horsehair, 20.5 x 17 x 12"
Plains Talkin (Antelope and Magpies), 2011, porcelain, 21 x 14 x 10"
Looking Back: When Porcelain Ponies were all a Girl Had..., 2011, porcelain, 21.5 x 13 x 7"
Big Belt-Little Belt: The Belt Range Mountains, 2011, porcelain, 44 x 10 x 10"
Rails of Silence: Cascade, MT, 2011, porcelain, paper, bronze & iron railroad spike, 16 x 10.5 x 5.5"
Mountain Kiln God, 2011, porcelain & horsehair, 20 x 20"
Front Runners: Rocky Mountain Front, 2011, porcelain, wood & hemp twine, 18 x 14 x 20"
Centered: The Great Falls, 2011, porcelain, 14 x 12"
Spotted Towhee Woman, 2011, porcelain & twigs, 26 x 13"
Dreams Soar on Shiny Black Wings, 2011, porcelain, 19 .5 x 9"
Wolf in My Woods, 2011, porcelain, 8 x 8"
Raven's Sun, 2011, porcelain, 8 x 8"
Under the Prairie Moon, 2011, porcelain, 8 x 8"
Bird Woman, 2011, porcelain, 8 x 8"

Deb Schmit

Harvest Wagon, 2011, oil on linen, 36 x 46"
Pioneer Children (set of 4), 2011, oil on linen on reclaimed barn wood, 8 x 8" each
Listen Up, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 10 x 8"
Ten Below, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 8 x 6"
Snowball, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 8 x 6"
Trail West, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 9 x 12"
Virgelle Ferry, 2011, oil on canvas, 24 x 36"
Calves in a Spring Blizzard: Montana Winter, 2011, oil on canvas panel, 12 x 16"
Blue Collar Cafe, 2011, oil on linen, 20 x 20"
Beartooth Travelers (Self Portrait), 2011, oil on canvas panel, 24 x 18"
Cowpoke, 2010, oil on canvas panel, 10 x 8"
Foray to the Front, 2010, oil on linen, 46 x 36"

Laurie Stevens

Molly B, 2011, oil on cradled board, 8 x 8"
A Rustle in the Brush, 2001, oil on cradled board, 8 x 8"
The Prize, 2011, oil on cradled board, 8 x 8"
A Kind Eye, 2011, oil on cradled board, 8 x 8"
Motel Galata (On the High-Line), 2011, oil, 48 x 36"
Alpine Sunset, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"
A Special Place, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"
Before the Falls, 2011, oil, 48 x 36"
Tyin' On, 2011, oil, 24 x 30"
A Reason to Fly, 2011, oil, 24 x 30"
Goin' Nowhere Fast, 2011, oil, 14 x 18"
Shadow Patterns, 2011, oil, 16 x 20"
If I could remember your name I'd ask you if you had seen my ... (Self Portrait), 2011, oil

All work courtesy of the exhibiting artists



Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art is dedicated to fulfilling the artistic needs of the general public. This is accomplished through:

- Fostering accessibility and understanding of modern, contemporary and self-taught art;
- Collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting art that actively engages a diverse and growing audience;
- Providing educational programming that inspires artistic expression and understanding;
- Expanding public knowledge of, interest in and support for the arts and artists of the region;
- Serving as a cultural center, and continuing the preservation of the historically significant Paris Gibson Square building.

Approved April 29, 2008 by the Board of Trustees

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 Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm.
 Tuesday Evenings, 7 to 9 pm.
 Saturday - Noon to 5 pm.
 CLOSED SUNDAYS



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CHRISTINE ALBRE, LEE SCHMITZ & LAURE STOVENS



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