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John Yau: Lecture and First Friday Poetry Reading
Free Expression. Free Admission.

Missoula, MT, March 28, 2019

Missoula Art Museum is excited to announce an appearance by nationally renowned poet, art critic and curator John Yau. In partnership with the University of Montana Creative Writing program, MAM will host Yau for a lecture on **April 3 at 7 PM** and a poetry reading immediately following First Friday festivities on **April 5 at 8:30 PM**. Yau will discuss the works in MAM's current exhibit *In Praise of Folly: Five Artists After Philip Guston*.

Yau has published over 50 books of poetry, fiction, and art criticism. Born in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1950 to Chinese emigrants, Yau attended Bard College and earned an MFA from Brooklyn College in 1978. His first book of poetry, *Crossing Canal Street*, was published in 1976. Since then, he has won acclaim for his poetry's attentiveness to visual culture and linguistic surface. In poems that frequently pun, trope, and play with the English language, Yau offers complicated, sometimes competing, versions of the legacy of his dual heritages—as Chinese, American, poet, and artist.

Yau has received many honors and awards including a New York Foundation for the Arts Award, the Jerome Shestack Award, and the Lavan Award from the Academy of American Poets. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram-Merrill Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation, and was named a Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by France. Yau has taught at many institutions, including Pratt, the Maryland Institute College of Art and School of Visual Arts, Brown University, and the University of California-Berkeley. Since 2004 he has been the arts editor of the Brooklyn Rail. He teaches at the Mason Gross School of the Arts and Rutgers University, and lives in New York City.

"I am thrilled we are able to host John Yau. He has been such a resource, mentor, and inspiration for many of us [poets] writing today. His many poetry books situate us in experimentation, art and architecture, lyricism, and playful analytical insight, and he is able to teach us so much about what the poem both abstracts and concretizes in these rich and fearless forms in which he writes. His numerous collections are simply where we find the currency and discourse around cutting-edge art today (as well as his writing on 20th century art movements); his exposition on art always deepens the discussion." – Prageeta Sharma, English Professor, University of Montana

About Missoula Art Museum: Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM is emerging as the leading contemporary art museum in the Intermountain West. MAM is a spectacular attraction in the heart of Missoula's historic downtown: a fully accessible, free public museum that boasts eight exhibition spaces, a library, education center and an inviting information lounge.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Brandon Reintjes, Senior Curator, at (406) 728-0447 or email brandon@missoulaartmuseum.org

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