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**Series of Exhibitions at the Missoula Art Museum Highlight Artistic Representations of Mining, Logging, and Other Extractive Industries**

MISSOULA, Mont., June 1, 2021

This summer, MAM is participating in [EXTRACTION: Art on the Edge of the Abyss](#), a special project of the CODEX Foundation. It aims to produce a multimedia and multivenuue art experience that investigates extractive industry in all its forms. With sites stretching throughout the United States and abroad, MAM is part of an organic collective of participating artists, art venues, curators, and arts supporters. MAM has developed a suite of exhibitions aimed at offering different perspectives:

[Edge of The Abyss: Artists Picturing the Berkeley Pit](#) includes artists Jean Arnold, Eben Goff, Kristi Hager, Marcy James, Peter Koch in collaboration with Didier Mutel and Nolan Salix. These artists present a dynamic range of perspectives in reaction to the former mine in Butte, ranging from awe at the grandeur of the landscape to concerns about land use and environmental impact. The Berkeley Pit began as a traditional copper mine in the late 19th century, which gave way to large-scale industrial excavation when an open pit mine was opened in 1955. Over 1.5 billion tons of material were eventually removed from the pit before it closed in 1982 and was designated as an EPA Superfund site in 1987.

A second exhibition focuses instead on [The Space of Hope: A Collective Response](#). The title of this exhibition is taken from a quote by author Rebecca Solnit: “We don’t know what is going to happen, or how, or when, and that very uncertainty is the space of hope.” Rather than focus on the devastation wrought by the intertwined processes of industrialization and cultural displacement, the goal of this exhibit is to provide a positive counter-narrative to the historical power structures inherent to extraction. This juried group exhibition includes Montana artists as well as artists from Tennessee, California, and New Mexico. MAM is grateful for project support from the Cultural Vision Fund for this exhibit.

In addition, MAM presents [Jerry Rankin: Golden Sunlight](#), a suite of eight collagraphs focused on the environmental threats posed by the Golden Sunlight mine near his home in Whitehall, Montana. This exhibition was organized by the Missoula Art Museum and is touring the state under the auspices of the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association (MAGDA). MAM collection pieces are featured in [Pennies from Hell: Selections from the MAM Collection](#), which focuses locally, investigating the problematic legacies of Milltown Dam, the Berkeley Pit and locations near Missoula. Featuring works by George Gogas, Mark Abrahamson, Gennie DeWeese, and others.

“These exhibitions can be seen as a series of both looking back, and looking forward,” said Brandon Reintjes senior curator at the museum. “The identities of many Montanans, as well as the state itself, have deep connections to the extractive industries, while many Native American communities in the state bear the the brunt of its repercussions. The Berkeley Pit in Butte, a focal point in these exhibits, is an infamous landmark in a

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state otherwise known for natural beauty,” he continued. Today, the Berkeley Pit is one of seventeen Superfund sites managed by the Department of Environmental Quality in Montana. The majority are located in the western half of the state and are related to extractive resource activity like destructive mining processes. In contrast, Montana has also been a testing site for environmental reclamation efforts like the National Bison Range, the American Prairie Reserve, and undamming rivers, among other projects.

*Edge of The Abyss: Artists Picturing the Berkeley Pit* and *Space of Hope: A Collective Response* will be on view at MAM from June 8 through September 18. *Jerry Rankin: Golden Sunlight* and *Pennies from Hell: Selections from the MAM Collection* are on view now through September 2.

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**About MAM:** 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 situated on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Séliš (Salish or “Flathead”) and Q̓lispé (upper Kalispel or Pend d’Oreille) peoples. MAM is committed to respecting the indigenous stewards of the land it occupies. Their rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Montana and to the work of MAM. MAM is a fully accessible, free public museum boasting eight exhibition spaces, a library, and an education center in the heart of Missoula’s historic downtown.