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MAM Senior Curator Recognized

2019 Emily Hall Tremaine Exhibition Award and Exhibition Research Grant Recipient

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MAM Senior Curator Brandon Reintjes has been named one of two curators in the nation to receive the newly created 2019 Emily Hall Tremaine Exhibition Award and Exhibition Research Grant.

MAM staff will research and potentially develop an exhibition gathering major contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists who use visual art to explore issues surrounding the topic of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW). With the funds, MAM staff will be able to travel to all seven reservations throughout Montana to meet with relatives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, Tribal elders, and artists to better understand the complexities and breadth of the problem and identify artists or artworks.

Reintjes said, "We're tremendously honored to receive this prestigious award. This recognition underscores the importance of MAM's work promoting contemporary Native artists." MAM has a strong focus on contemporary Native artists with a dedicated gallery and through the Collection. In the 13 years since the gallery was dedicated, MAM has presented 25 solo and 12 group exhibitions in the Lynda M. Frost Contemporary American Indian Art Gallery, and over a hundred educational programs, discussions, lectures, master classes, and workshops have been successfully presented in conjunction with these acclaimed exhibitions. MAM's Collection now features over 200 objects the nation's most recognizable and powerful Native artists, and is the most sought-after part of our collection, with frequent requests for loans.

Reintjes says "MAM is situated on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Séliš (Salish or "Flathead") and Q̓lispé (upper Kalispell or Pend d'Oreille) peoples. Their rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Montana and to the work of MAM. As such, we have an obligation to take on critical issues affecting this region, and MMIW is so devastating and persistent. We're investigating how to best work with communities that are so close to our hearts and the best ways to represent the complexities of this issue at MAM."

The Exhibition Award was created in 1998 and the Research Grant was founded in 2019 to honor the talent and artistic vision of The Tremaine Foundation founder, Emily Hall Tremaine. Tremaine's passion for art and support of living artists inspired, challenged, and brought joy to those around her. These awards continue to reflect Tremaine's trailblazing spirit by supporting thematic exhibitions of contemporary art that are fresh and experimental in nature.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Joseph Kellogg at (406) 728-0447 or email joe@missoulaartmuseum.org

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