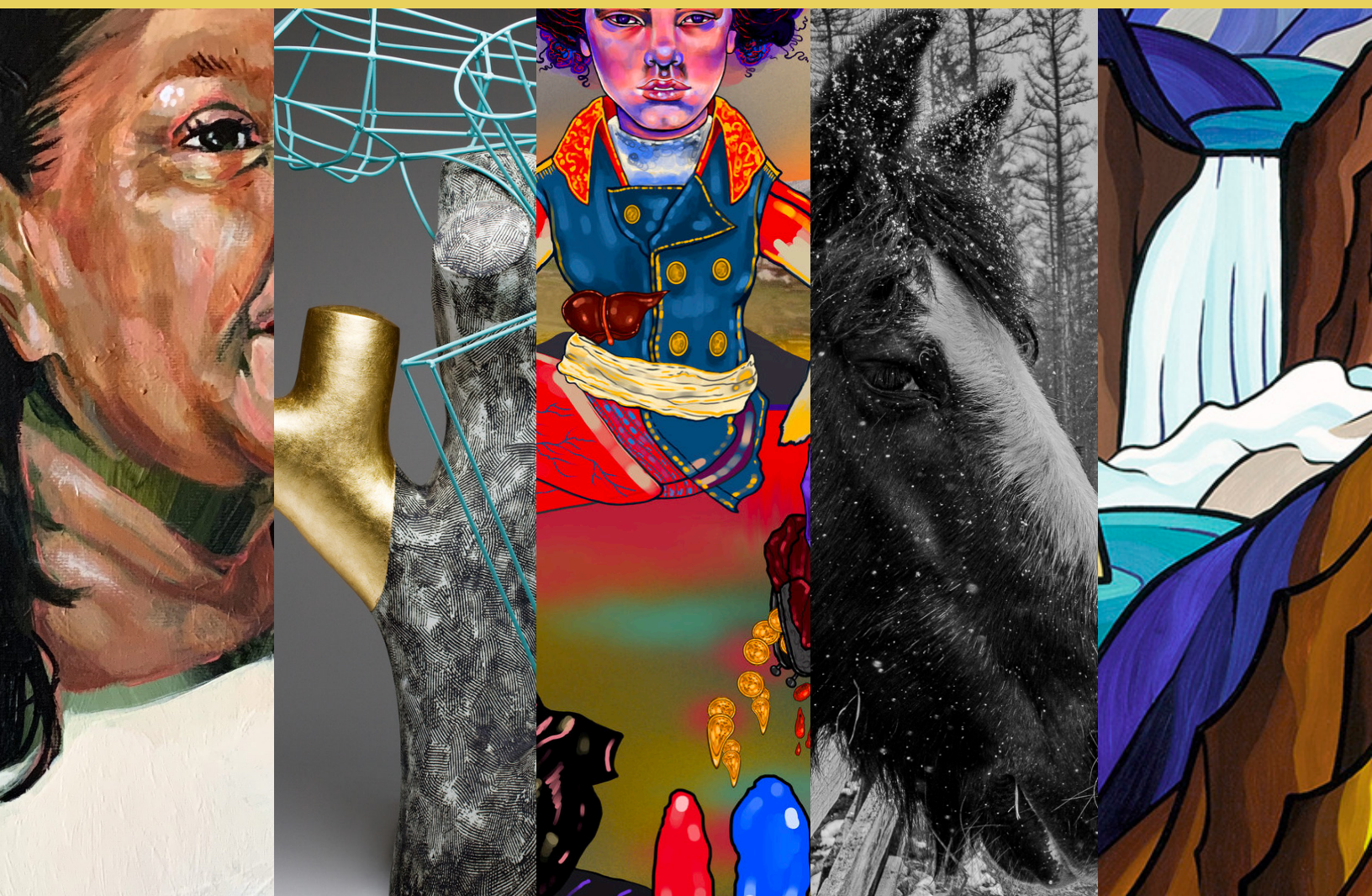


20-21

ART MOBILE OF MONTANA

EDUCATION GUIDE

Place - Story - Transformation - Identity



The Current Condition, Visions of the Contemporary West

AMM's 2020-2021 virtual exhibition and program offers ways to explore, interact with, and create art. Our exhibit highlights 30 contemporary Montana artists working in a wide range of mediums and representing a variety of cultures. AMM is providing a series of lesson plan tutorials, suggested activities, and discussion topics all inspired by this year's exhibiting artists. Our education guide is organized into four different themes to provide connections between artists and ideas, and suggest ways for viewers to engage and participate.

Exhibiting Artists

April Werle
Ashley Mitchell
Becca Joy Dickson
Beth Lo
Candice Methe
Carlin Bear Don't Walk
Courtney Blazon
Dana Boussard
Heather Snell
James Weikert
Janaina Vieira-Marques
Jay Laber
Jo LaPorte
Johnathan Marquis
Josh Quick
Jury Rubeling-Kain
Kelly Packer
Kirsten Kainz
Lauren Grabelle
Maggy Hiltner
Mary Ann Bonjorni
Monica Gilles-Brings Yellow
Olivia Stark
Parker Beckley
Nicholas Danielson
Stella Nall
Sue Tirrell
Tessa Heck-George
Trey Hill
Whitney Polich

Contents

What is contemporary art: Contemporary art is made by an artist that has lived or is living in the 21st century. Contemporary art reflects the different cultures, environments, events, concerns, ideas, and technologies of our time.

Themes:

Place
Story
Transformation
Identity

Each theme provides:

A list of exhibiting artists that work with this theme
AMM lesson plans & project tutorials
Discussion Topics
Suggested Activities



Place

Place is not just a landscape or area but a location with layers of history, culture, and stories. It can be a physical setting/environment or one of the imagination. Place can be defined by borders, boundaries, and labels, or by shared geographical aspects, habitats, inhabitants, and experiences.

Artists

The following artists address ideas and relationships with place:

April Werle • Carlin Bear Don't Walk • James Weikert • Mary Ann Bonjorni • Josh Quick • Whitney Polich

Activities

- **Abstract Landscapes**- inspired by April Werle
- **Stories of Home**- inspired by Josh Quick
- **Dear Place**- After viewing Whitney Polich's piece, *Gray Sky Gold*, and reading Jo LaPorte's, *How to Have an Awkward Conversation with a Tree*, discuss how the two artists' works are similar and how they are different. Create your own writing for a specific place or thing. -inspired by Whitney Polich and Jo LaPorte
- **Listen, what's that you say?**- After completing the Dear Place activity, try the opposite activity. Listen to the place that surrounds you, what stories does it have to share? Imagine that you are the place and write and/or draw what you think the place would want to share. What has it seen? Who has been its inhabitants? what changes has it witnessed or gone through? - inspired by Carlin Bear Don't Walk, Whitney Polich

Discussion Topics & Questions

- What emotions does Calin Bear Don't Walk's artwork, *Defend+Protect+Preserve* make you feel? What do you think he was hoping the viewers would feel? Think of something you would like to change or prevent in your own home or town. What kind of images could you use to share those concerns with others?
- What do you think of Mary Ann Bonjorni's work, *Road Warrior*? If you use objects that you find and alter them, is it art? What do those objects say about the places they came from? What could an elongated deer possibly mean?

Story

An account or sharing of a series of events. Stories can be true or made up. They can be about the past, the present, the future, or of no time or many times all at once.

Artists

The following artists address ideas and relationships with story:

Ashley Mitchell - Beth Lo - Candice Methe - Courtney Blazon - Jo LaPorte - Lauren Grabelle - Parker Beckley - Sue Tirrell- Jury Rubeling-Kain

Activities

- **Paper Doll Animals**- inspired by Jo LaPorte
- **Animals Wearing Clothes**- inspired by Ashley Mitchell
- **Finding Beauty in the Daily** – What narrative do you come up with looking at Lauren Grabelle and Jury Rubeling-Kain's photographs? Both of these photographers happened to just catch the perfect shots during their day to day lives. You have the tools to do the same, right in your hand. Instead of using your phone to take posed or staged photographs, try to capture the beauty in everyday activities and happenings around you. What kinds of stories can those tell? What happens when you make a photograph black and white? How does that change how you see the image? -inspired by Lauren Grabelle & Jury Rubeling-Kain
- **Snapshots of 2020**- If you could tell your story of 2020 using 5-9 images, what would they be? On a piece of paper create 5-9 squares or rectangles, some may be bigger for more important imagery. Draw your images in your squares/rectangles (using any medium you like) so it reads chronologically like a comic. - inspired by Parker Beckley & Beth Lo
- **Pass the Story**- Each person starts with a large piece of paper. Spend a minute or two drawing whatever pops in your head, then pass the paper to the person to their right. Everyone should have another person's paper at this point. Spend a few minutes adding to the other person's drawing, then pass it to the person on your right. Repeat these steps until you end up with the paper you started with. Spend some time coming up with a story based on the drawings on your paper. Share your stories with each other.- inspired by Courtney Blazon, Beth Lo

Discussion Topics & Questions

- What are some of the ways these artists use their art to tell stories? Do you need words to tell a story? Besides art and writing, what are some other ways people can tell stories?
- Look closely at Courtney Blazon's piece *Details du la monde*, referencing the "Year without a Summer", the period of May-September 1816. Are there images that could be referencing life today? If she were to create a similar work for the events that have happened in the last year, what type of imagery do you think you would see?

Transformation

The process of changing, growing, diminishing, or altering. Transformations can happen to people, all living things, places, elements of nature, and objects. They can happen internally and externally.

Artists

The following artists address ideas and relationships with transformation:

Dana Boussard – Janaina Vieira-Marques - Johnathan Marquis - Kristen Kainz - Maggie Rozychi-Hiltner - Nicholas Danielson- Kelly Packer- Heather Snell

Activities

- **Cyanotype**- inspired by Jonathan Marquis, Stella Nall *AMM kit
- **Geometric Forms**- inspired by Nicholas Danielson, Candice Methe *AMM kit
- **Object Mandalas**- Mandalas are created as a way of mindfully altering materials into a radial-symmetrical design, meaning everything revolves around the center, similar to a clock. Either by yourself or with a few peers gather objects outdoors to create a mandala. Start with the center and work your way to the outermost circular design. Try to focus on what you are doing and how you are transforming the existence of your materials. If you can't do this activity outside, try it inside with household objects. Document your mandalas and share your image on the AMM Community Gallery - inspired by Janaina Vierra-Marques
- **Masking Tape Mural**- Using colored masking tape or painters tape, create a design for a masking tape mural. Choose a location that you feel should get transformed into a work of art. Ideally this will be a public location so your design can interact with people who use or pass by the space. Think of what types of designs would translate best using tape? What type of design would work best for the space? What design would most intrigue your viewers? Be sure to get permission before starting this project. -inspired by Janaina Vierra-Marques, Parker Beckley, April Werle

Discussion Topics & Questions

- How does Johnathan Marquis transform his materials? What transformations is he trying to draw attention to through his work? Without seeing the title or knowing what his work is about, they can seem very abstract, meaning they don't represent anything from real life. How important are Johnathan's titles for his artworks?
- Heather Snell's piece, *Of the Earth*, was created using traditional indigenous pigments. She used these pigments in a nontraditional way to demonstrate how indigenous art is evolving and changing while holding onto their traditions. What cultural traditions do you have? How have they changed over time and how have they stayed the same?

Identity

Identity includes the experiences, histories, values, relationships, and beliefs of a person or group of people. It can also include physical characteristics. Identity encompasses your sense of self, how you relate to others, and how you relate to ideas.

Artists

The following artists address ideas and relationships with identity:

Becca Joy Dickson- Olivia Stark- Monica Gilles Brings Yellow- Stella Nall- Tessa Heck- Trey Hill- Jay Laber

Activities

- **Quarantine Portraits-** inspired by Olivia Stark, Tessa Heck
- **Found Object Superheroes-** inspired by Jay Laber, Kirsten Kainz
- **Mask challenge-** Artist Tessa Heck's piece, *Study 1*, from her series Quarantine Dreams, depicts a woman wearing a mask. This mask was influenced by high fashion, which Tessa recognized as extremely impractical. This impracticality is what inspired Tessa Heck. With any medium of your choice- either 2D or 3D, design your own Quarantine mask. Instead of creating a mask similar to the ones you see people wear, or are wearing yourself, let your design be influenced by impracticality and absurdness, which is much more fun!- inspired by Tessa Heck
- **My New Skin-** Artist Trey Hill creates sculptures that represent the human form. He decorates the surface using different colors, techniques, and materials that represent different emotions and characteristics. Imagine if your skin really reflected you and your individuality. What if all of our skin looked like our imaginations made of colors of the rainbows and fantastical imagery? How would things be different? How would our skins change as we got older? Draw a self portrait using any materials you like. It can be a portrait of your face, hand, arm, leg, or whole body. Create a new skin for yourself based on your imagination and how you feel on the inside. What colors would you use? What imagery? - inspired by Trey Hill

Discussion Topics & Questions

- What makes up our identity? Identity is not just our physical appearance but our connections with others, our activities, histories, interests, fears, etc. Brainstorm a list of everything that contributes to your identity.
- Both Becca Joy Dickson and Monica Gilles-Brings Yellow create beautiful portraits to highlight other people. Monica Gilles-Brings Yellow often creates portraits that highlight her Bitterroot Salish ancestors and culture. By doing so she hopes to carry on their stories. Do you have any people that you feel deserve to be honored? What stories of your family or ancestors do you want to carry on so they are never forgotten?