

# HEART OF THE HOLTER

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Visit

Exhibitions

Education

Museum Shop

Donate

Dear Holter Friends and Family,

As we prepare for reopening the museum on January 17<sup>th</sup> with five new exhibits and fresh new museum gift shop artwork, I have been reflecting on what an interesting and dynamic few months the end of 2024 proved to be for the Holter. Each winter we close for a few weeks for a full museum turnover, prepare our education programming for winter and spring classes, and to take care of some important administrative and development tasks. We may be closed to the public but behind those windows is a world full of bustle, activity, hope, excitement and sometimes a few curse words shared amongst colleagues. We can't wait to see you all on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, and I encourage you to look at our calendar of exhibition events in this newsletter. There is beauty and science and photography and painting and sculpture and wildlife and important ideas and artistic dialogue.

I also want to take this first newsletter of 2025 and share some of our accomplishments and happenings from the first half of our fiscal year.

1. David Spencer's passing on November 13<sup>th</sup> impacted all of us at the Holter, so many others around the community and into the far reaches of the world. While we miss him dearly, his legacy is just beginning to emerge. In his name and honor and for financial assistance to take care of his end of life affairs, his passing has raised an astonishing \$12,000 from his friends and those who were inspired by and loved him. In his death, he also left the Holter as the beneficiary of his retirement account and we were amazed to learn that over twenty years of dutifully putting \$9.23 away from each paycheck built \$17,000 savings! In February, we will also be collaborating with our friends at Merlin CCC to host a monthlong (or so) Bookstore and Athenium at the Holter to raise more funds and to distribute his beloved books. From all of these activities, we will be working on developing a program, artist/writer/philosopher in residence, in his honor that we aim to continue for years to come. So we hope to see you in February! Here is his memorial website that might be of interest to you. <https://inmemoriam.merlinccc.com/david-spencer/>
2. With a HUGE and GRATEFUL heart for our donors and supporters, the Holter met (and then some) our Annual Appeal goal of \$80,000 this year. We could not have done this without each of our 217 contributors. This was a very hard summer and fall for the museum. We had more visitors than usual, engaging and popular programming, excellent exhibitions, and served more children than ever. But overall donations and revenue were down significantly, we believe in large part to the diversion of discretionary funds that were pivoted to election causes and candidate. It was a slow start to our Annual Appeal, but by mid-November, the donations really began to increase with pace and by the end of December, we had met our goal! THANK YOU to all of our family and friends who have helped – whether it was \$5 or \$5,000 – every penny matters.
3. The Holter was awarded the Murdock Family Trust grant for our permanent collection! This was the shot in the arm that we needed to jumpstart our end-of-year appeal. It was also a very nice way to end our Secrets of the Vault Lecture Series. With some funds in hand, we now have a

Permanent Collections Registrar and the important work of completing the digital archiving of over 1,700 pieces of artwork this upcoming year.

Lastly, I want to share a few announcements about some changes that you may notice around the Holter.

1. Staffing Changes and Roles – Trent Emmart will be taking on our Weekend Front of Museum Assistant position that David dutifully held for 35 years. He is also our Custodian Extraordinaire, keeping the museum in tip-top shape and helping with events. Hannah Harvey has been hired as the Permanent Collection Registrar and moving back into the Communications and Development Assistant role she had when she first began at the museum. This means that she will no longer be the Front of Museum Manager. Meghan Patton-Durant will be taking the Front of Museum position managing the gift shop, and will continue managing Rental Events. She also assists in our Education Department. We are a mighty and busy seven-strong staff. We rely heavily on our incredible volunteers and docents. We have eight volunteers in the front of the museum, a small army of volunteers who help with exhibitions and facilities, and a growing Docent team in our education department. A BIG THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!
2. Our Board is also changing. We have added several new board members this year, including Scott Deitle, Chip Clawson and Emma Watkins since this summer. Our goal is to add three more board members by June and I have no doubt we will meet that goal as well. We said "goodbye" to board members, Keith Meyer, Murry Warhank, Corey Palmer and Carlos Joaquin-Pimentel. If you or someone you know may be a good fit for our board, I would love to speak with you further about what it means to be a Holter board member.
3. And not so much a change but a very big SHOUT OUT to our Education Department. I am so proud of the impact they make in our community from 1 year-olds to 101 year-olds! At the Holter we see "Art is for ALL" AND "The power of art to transform lives" in action every day. Please take a close look at all of the workshops and offerings we have starting just next week. Did you know that we bring every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in the Helena School District through our museum doors to engage with our exhibits and learn through a hands-on art workshop each year? 750+ students participate in this fun and impactful rite of passage starting next week. After all, a museum is first and foremost an education institution, and we believe that the Holter is an incredible educational resource for our community and beyond.

I won't apologize for the length of this article because all of it needs to be shared. I do hope that you all have a healthy, safe and creative start to 2025. And thank you, once again, for being a Holter friend and family member!

Much Love, Christina

From the Director's Corner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Opening Reception:**

**Katie Knight, Speaking Volumes,  
Cristina Marian, and Kalon Baughan**

**January 17, 6-8 p.m.**

**Lecture with**

**Christine Garceau, PhD.**

*Photographic Practices: Women, Identity, and Cultural Formation*

**January 18, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

# Current Exhibitions

**JOIN US FOR AN OPENING RECEPTION AND ARTISTS' TALKS  
ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH FROM 6:00-8:00 PM.  
(FREE! CASH/CARD BAR AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.)**



**Katie Knight**

**Speaking Volumes: Fresh  
and Familiar Faces**

MILLIKAN GALLERY  
January 17 - March 30

[learn more](#)



**Cristina Marian**

**Nowhere To Be But Here**

BAIR GALLERY  
January 17 - March 30

[learn more](#)



**Kalon Baughan**

**Mesocarvivores of  
Monatana: Icons of the West**

NICHOLSON and HELD  
GALLERIES

January 17 - February 23

[learn more](#)



**Katie Knight**

**What Hangs in the Balance**

BAUCUS GALLERY  
January 17 - March 30

[learn more](#)

## Upcoming Exhibition



**Paw Prints: Jessie Wilber's  
Animal Friends**

NICHOLSON & HELD  
GALLERIES  
February 28 - March 30

More Information Coming  
Soon!

# From the Holter Vault:

Featured work from our Permanent Collection



This chilly polyptych by painter Michael Haykin was featured in the artist's solo show at The Holter in 2004, alongside a series of other works depicting elements of the natural world. This piece, when fully assembled, is one of the largest in The Holter's collection, at 9'x9'.

Michael Haykin, *Blizzard Sticks*, 2004. Oil on Canvas.  
Permanent Collection of The Holter Museum of Art, gift of Miriam Sample.

 **HOLTER**  
MUSEUM of ART

**BECOME A  
HOLTER  
MEMBER**

Members are the  
foundation of financial  
support for The Holter  
Museum of Art.



Memberships are a great way to support us and now we're delighted to offer even more perks for members! We offer 4 standard levels of membership based off your annual level of giving. With the introduction of museum admissions fees, membership is the way to go if you want to show your support as well as avoid admissions fees.

[Click to Become a Member!](#)

**All Members Receive—**

- At least 1 Holter membership card
- 10% off in Holter Museum Store and on Classes
- 10% off your purchase at MT Book Company
- 10% off All Art Supplies at Queen City Framing & Art Supplies
- 10% off your purchase at Fire Tower Coffee House
- \$1 from your first drink at The Hawthorn goes to the Holter
- 1 free beer every month at Ten Mile Creek Brewery
- \$1 off your first beer every Tuesday at Blackfoot Brewery
- \$1 off your first drink at Gulch Distillers
- \$5 off any \$15 purchase at Café Zydeco
- Free sprinkles with single cone purchase at Big Dipper

# Broad Vision

## *No Art on the Walls*

It's that special time of year again! The Holter will be closed from December 30th to January 16<sup>th</sup>. We will open again at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. We do this because we like to start the new year with all new exhibitions. This year, there will be four new exhibitions by three artists. Because it is such an intense process, it is best for us to close and allow ourselves the time we need without the added pressure of an audience. That, and there's not much to see with no art on the walls.

This winter, we will have two shows by local artist and former Holter staff member Katie Knight. Katie is a lifelong social justice activist and champion of human rights. Through her work, Katie aims to fight against the violence of colonialism and racial injustice. She will be exhibiting an updated version of her much-beloved exhibition that first opened at the Holter in 2008, *Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate*, now titled *Speaking Volumes: Fresh and Familiar Faces*. As the new title implies, this show will have some returning pieces as well as brand-new ones never before included. Her second exhibition, *What Hangs in the Balance*, is entirely new. Knight's activist background also informs this show, but it is primarily focused on the precarity of our world and our delicate social fabric at this time. Both exhibitions encourage the viewer to be thoughtful about the world and to consider what may be done to improve it.

Our second artist, who will be opening on January 17<sup>th</sup>, is Romanian-American visual artist Cristina Marian. Her exhibition, *Nowhere To Be But Here*, takes on a theme nearly as old as life itself: motherhood. Its beauty, challenges, and transforming power. A new mom herself, Cristina takes a vulnerable and honest look at how her life has been changed, redefining herself as she takes on this new role.

Themes of motherhood, pregnancy, and our relationship to ourselves have always been popular but have garnered an increased visibility in recent years, perhaps due to growing concerns surrounding women's body autonomy. Although Cristina's work is not explicitly about this, it is important to consider the state of maternal identity in America and how it affects us all. This show is sure to be as touching as it is thought-provoking.

Last but certainly not least is artist Kalon Baughan, with his photography exhibition *Mesocarnivores of Montana: Icons of the West*. This show focuses on Montana's greatest carnivores and their preservation, a cause very near to Kalon's heart. His style is like a glamourized trail cam, capturing these predators in their natural state with impressive strobe lighting and balanced compositions. After seeing these magnificent creatures and learning about their important role in our environment, one can't help but consider the balance demanded by nature and the effects humans can have on it.

We hope you can make it to our grand re-opening on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 p.m. if not, we hope you get a chance to see these incredible shows while we have them. Thank you so much, and we'll see you all again very soon!

Sincerely,  
Curator, Gianna Sherman





## Monthly Classes

### Corks & Canvas

Paintbrush in one hand a tasty drink in the other! 1st Friday of the month. Check our website for availability.

[learn more](#)

### Ink and Drink

**January 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Join the Holter for a happy hour with ink and screenprinting! With a drink in one hand, a paintbrush in the other, and a silkscreen design, we will create a masterpiece while enjoying a social evening of painting and printing!

[learn more](#)

### Long Pose Figure Drawing

**January 18, 10:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.**

For this once-a-month occasion, the model will be holding 2 long poses over a 3 hour time period.

[learn more](#)

### Early Childhood ArtStart

**January 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Ages 5-7.

[learn more](#)

### Cabs and Slabs

Clay and drinks! Join us for the perfect Friday night activity or date night! Last Friday of the month. Check our website for availability.

[learn more](#)

## For Full Class Schedule and Information,

[CLICK HERE!](#)

## Weekly Classes

### Imagine That!

**Mondays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Explore and play with new-to-you and familiar materials in guided hands-on art making lessons with creative imaginative results! Ages 7-11.

[learn more](#)

### ArtFeeds (Middle School)

**Mondays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

This workshop allows Middle School kids to work with artists exploring ways to use visual arts and writing to help navigate life while expressing in a space shared with peers.

[learn more](#)

### Young Artist Workshop

**Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Work alongside a professional artist to learn the basics of making art. Ideal for the motivated artist who knows enough and wants to learn more! Ages 11-16.

[learn more](#)

### ArtSmart

**Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Art history meets creative making! Learn about a different artist each week, exploring their artistic style and medium before breaking out to create your own piece of art. Ages 8-12.

[learn more](#)

### Art for Survival

**Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

A visual arts and writing workshop that allows High School participants to work with artists exploring ways to use visual arts and writing to help them navigate life.

[learn more](#)

### D&D in the Realm of AiC

**Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

In this Dungeons and Dragons campaign, participants craft characters to form an adventuring party and take off into a fantasy world! Ages 8-16.

[learn more](#)

### After School Teen Arts Council

**Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

ATAC is an opportunity for creatively-minded teens to come together and become an integral part of the Holter, therefore becoming advocates for the arts among their peers as well as the community as a whole.

[learn more](#)

### Little Artists

**Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Encourage your toddler's curiosity and independence in this early ages interactive experience for young artists and their caregivers. Ages 3-5 with guardian.

[learn more](#)

### Adventures in Cardboard: Open Armory

**Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Join us for a class that sneaks in structural engineering and sculptural practice with a dose of cardboard and whimsy.

[learn more](#)

### Figure Drawing Studio

**Wednesdays 6:30-8:30**

This ongoing figure drawing studio is open to all levels! Bring your own media.

[learn more](#)

## Don't forget about specialty classes! Upcoming classes include:

- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Jazz
- Sgraffito Ceramics
- Culinary Arts: Chocolate Mousse Pie, Berry Lattice Pie, and Lemon Meringue Pie
- How to Draw: Wolverines and Bobcats
- How to Draw: Jessie Wilber's Animal Friends
- Art of the Cards--Digital Media and Tarot Art
- Silicon Mold Making
- Stained Glass Resin Art

[learn more](#)



# David's Bookstore

**FEBRUARY 4 - 25, open during museum hours**

Help Holter staff raise funds for our dear friend's end-of-life expenses and ensure that his beloved books end up in good hands!



## How it works:

1. Purchase a canvas tote OR a "Mystery Box" for \$25. Totes are screenprinted with illustration by Doug Turman (shown here).
2. Fill the tote with books of your choice from David's library. Mystery boxes are pre-filled with a selection of books.
3. Read and enjoy the feeling of enlightenment!

## Event Rentals



Looking for a creative and versatile space to host your holiday party? Look no further than the W here at the Holter! Renting our space provides you and your guests a unique opportunity to privately view our contemporary art exhibitions featured in our galleries while congregating in a creative, community space made for arts and entertainment. Call us with any inquiries or to explore availability! With room to accommodate up to 100 guests, the Holter is the perfect place to celebrate your staff, family gathering, or event.

For quotes and more information contact Events Coordinator Meghan Durant-Patton [meghan@holtermuseum.org](mailto:meghan@holtermuseum.org)

[Click for Event Application](#)

## Annual Holter Sponsorships

Strong communities thrive when a sense of community and belonging are shared. The Holter Museum of Art brings innovative and timely contemporary exhibits to the Helena community; inspiring, connecting, and igniting creativity through exhibits, arts programs, events, and community outreach programs.

By supporting Holter exhibits, kids programs, events, and other initiatives, you are participating in a community that values connection and believes in promoting, enhancing, and protecting the arts in our community. Join us in supporting the place where people come to be inspired, find connection, and explore themselves, making Helena the best place to live, work, and play! Strong partnerships and collaborations breed success.

[Click for Sponsorship Opportunities](#)