

Dear Holter Family, Friends, and Supporters,



I hope this letter finds you surrounded by moments of connection, creativity, and hope. I write to you not only on behalf of the Holter Museum of Art, but as an artist, educator, parent, child of Veterans, and fellow Montanan who cares deeply about the well-being of our communities, our families, and our future. Every year, for 38 years, our community has shown up for the Holter. **YOU, dear donor, provide critical support when you show up for the museum during our Annual Appeal; this year, it is just as important as ever.**

Last year was a challenging year economically for many nonprofits. This year has been challenging in other ways. As I spoke with a close friend back in March about the shifting landscape for nonprofits, he said something that really resonated with me: “The game has changed.” Many beloved organizations have closed their doors or have significantly reduced their services, and the strain of political and economic pressures has tested the resilience of even the strongest institutions. The Holter has not been immune to these forces. Yet, in the face of these challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission: to inspire, to transform, to bring people together through art.

The truth is clear—our state ranks near the bottom in public investment for the arts. Yet even with limited resources, the Holter continues to provide thousands of children with creative learning opportunities, offer Veterans and caregivers healing through artmaking, and present exhibitions and programs that spark dialogue, bridge divides, and remind us of our shared humanity. Every day, we see how art uplifts, challenges, and connects. **ART is not a luxury. ART is essential.**

At the Holter Museum of Art, we aspire to be a beacon of artistic excellence through curating innovative exhibitions, inspiring creativity in our engaging educational programs, and forging meaningful connections between artists, artworks, and our community. Committed to showcasing legacy, established and emerging artists, we aim to be a vibrant hub that celebrates the power of art, in all its forms and expressions, to transform lives.

THE HOLTER IN FOCUS: 2025-2026

EXHIBITIONS AND PERMANENT COLLECTION – YOU have the power to help the Holter “Challenge Stasis,” our focused exhibition theme for the next biennium. Through 32 exhibits in 2025 and 2026, the Holter will leverage the incredible artwork found in our permanent collection, harness regional artistic energy, and fold in an occasional global lens. With the first year of our M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Grant supporting our permanent collection work under our belt, the Holter is poised to activate our collection mission, reengage our collection donors, and interpret the rich history and legacy of the arts in our state and region.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS – Every year, our education program continues to deepen, evolve, and grow. This summer, YOU impacted the lives of over 650 children and youth through thirty different camps! From Adventures in Cardboard to painting to cooking to puppet-making and the ever-popular “Legomation,” our education programs are top-notch and expanding. This fall, we have increased the number and variety of classes we offer, for both children AND adults! There’s more to come, too. We were honored to receive one of 48 national Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Mid-America Arts Alliance to amplify and expand our Holter Healing Arts program for Veterans and their families here at the museum and at Fort Harrison VA Medical Center! In addition, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MT partnered with us to ensure uninterrupted art classes with our most vulnerable Veteran artists out at Fort Harrison. Lastly, without the annual, steadfast support from the Montana Arts Council, we could not provide art instruction, field trips with hands-on art experiences, or after-school arts programming to over 3,000 Helena school students and homeschool children a year. **We thank ALL of YOU who join this journey with us.**

THE E.L. WIEGAND CENTER FOR CREATIVITY – YOUR community center continues to be a wonderful place for organizations and businesses looking for a beautiful, creative, and productive space. With events such as workshops, conferences, meetings, funerals, weddings, and classes of all kinds, the “W” is a space for ALL. This past year, the Holter and Gentle Healing moved into a unique private-public partnership that has turned into a win-win-win for ALL. And while it has taken a little extra coordination on everyone’s part, the breadth and depth of programs, resources, and creative connections that have been born out of this relationship have been transformative.

HOLTER MUSEUM GIFT SHOP – With over 80 artists and artisans (and 50 more during HO HO HOLTER), the Museum Gift Shop is THE place to shop. But MORE importantly, it is THE place to support Montana's emerging artists and artisans. It is more than a gift shop— it is an opportunity for artists to showcase their artwork to a very supportive audience. When YOU shop here, you are supporting the arts in a big way. This year, we aim to bring our gift shop ONLINE so that we can share the talents of our gift shop artists everywhere the internet goes.

There is so much more that we do, but to sustain and expand the museum’s vital programs, we need supporters like YOU to consider giving generously during our Annual Appeal fundraising campaign.

When you support the Holter, you’re not only nurturing creativity—you are strengthening Montana’s civic and cultural fabric. Studies show that for every dollar invested in a museum, up to four dollars flow back into the local economy. But the value of the Holter goes far beyond numbers: it lives in the joy of a child discovering color, the relief of a Veteran finding expression, and the spark of understanding between neighbors who see the world differently yet stand together in the same gallery.

At the Holter, we take our role seriously. We honor legacy and history while courageously embracing contemporary voices and ideas—even those that challenge us. We know our responsibility is to serve all Montanans—loyal supporters who have walked with us for years, passionate young advocates who push us to grow, and those who may be wary of change but who recognize the importance of keeping the arts alive for future generations. The Holter belongs to YOU, and to ALL of us.

Now, we need YOU more than ever. Your gift to this year’s Annual Appeal ensures that the Holter continues to be a beacon of creativity and belonging in the heart of Montana. With your support, the arts will not just survive these turbulent times—they will thrive, and they will continue to strengthen and inspire our community.

Please consider renewing, increasing, or beginning your support of the Holter Museum of Art today. Together, WE will ensure that art remains a force of healing, inspiration, and transformation for everyone who walks through our doors.

**With gratitude and conviction,
ALL OF US at The Holter.**

Images:
(Front) James Todd, *Mike and Jim Todd* (detail), n.d. Wood engraving. Permanent collection of the Holter Museum of Art, gift of the artist.
(Back) Richard Swanson, *Red Shift Rocker*, 2005. Powder-coated steel. Permanent collection of the Holter Museum of Art, gift of Joan Holter.

How Does My Donation Help?

To sustain and expand the museum’s vital programs, we ask supporters like you to consider giving generously during our Annual Appeal fundraising campaign.

- \$50** Provides art supplies for a class or to patients in the Holter Healing Arts program
- \$100** Provides art supplies and materials for one Summer Camp
- \$150** Provides our free teen groups with supplies, snacks and access to engaging workshops
- \$200** Provides a FREE museum admission day for ALL
- \$250** Provides scholarships for a student in our education program
- \$500** Provides archival supplies and materials for our Permanent Collections
- \$1000** Provides for transportation of exhibition artwork
- \$2500** Provides for ONE Artists-In-Residence program (8 weeks long) at a Helena elementary school
- \$5000** Provides artist support and exhibition expenses for ONE exhibition

Give Today

Scan the QR code, send in your gift using the included envelope, or donate online.

