

January 2026 issue



WATERWORKS

Exhibits - Memberships - Outreach - Workshops

ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION

newsletter highlights

***A message from the
Director***



Previously at the WAM

***Upcoming Exhibits &
Events***

***Workshops and Classes
for Adults & Kids***

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends of WAM

With 2026 welcoming us, we are delighted to share a preview of the exhibitions and events coming to WaterWorks Art Museum. This year, we have seven exciting exhibits and two memorable fundraisers, all created to inspire, connect, and bring joy to our cherished community.

In January, we'll briefly pause for facility maintenance. During this time, if anyone needs something from our gift shop just call and our friendly staff are ready to open the door and help you find something special—whether a treat for yourself or a thoughtful gift.

The season begins January 30, with our eagerly anticipated Juried Exhibition, "Whispers of Color." This show features talented artists from around the country, each interpreting the theme in their own style. We're honored to welcome Jordan Pehler as our Juror this year, ensuring a fair and inspiring selection process. We encourage you to see the creativity that will be on display—you won't want to miss this exhibit.

On March 20, "Good as Gold" opens, marking the return of three exceptional East Coast artists: Debra Keirce, Maria Bennett Hock, and Carrie Roets-Waller. Their remarkable work will be exhibited through May 7, showcasing impressive skill and passion. Later, on May 15, join us for "The Western Art Roundup," featuring Gwendolyn Kern, Trish Stevenson, and Brad Bohl. Don't miss our popular Quick Draw event on May 16 during the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale—a highlight you'll truly enjoy!

Your enthusiasm and support drive WaterWorks forward. Whether you're attending exhibits, shopping, or joining a class, you help nurture the creative spirit that makes our community special. Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to sharing all that 2026 holds—see you at WaterWorks!

Yours in art,

Dixie Rieger

WAM Membership perks!

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CUSTER COUNTY ART CENTER FOUNDATION

Our foundation thrives on the dedication and passion of its members. We are seeking individuals who are committed to supporting the arts and ensuring the sustainability of our museum. Your involvement can make a significant difference. Join us and be a part of a team that champions investing in the future of WAM. If you are interested in becoming a member, call 406-234-0635 for more information.

Jean Lindley
President
Custer County Art Center Foundation

**Free Admission
Discounted Classes
Museum store
discounts
Invitations to special
events
Newsletters
Voting privileges
Bragging rights**

**CALL OR VISIT
WAM TO BECOME A
MEMBER TODAY!**

**Donation
needs**

At WAM, we enrich our community through art and education, powered by your generous support. We ask for your help so we can continue to inspire and educate through our programs.

Your donations, whether art supplies or monetary contributions, make a significant difference. Art supplies enable hands-on learning, nurturing creativity in students of all ages. Monetary donations sustain and expand our education programs, bringing more opportunities to those who need them most.

Every donation counts. Your contribution will directly impact our ability to offer high-quality education and creative resources. Together, we can foster a vibrant environment where art and education thrive.

Please consider making a donation today. Your generosity will help us continue our mission and touch many lives.

PREVIOUS EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

Broad Spectrum Quilts and Steve Stickel wood turning

Broad Spectrum Quilts



WaterWorks Art Museum hosted a dual exhibition, Broad Spectrum: Abundant Palette, and Prairie Turnings: Steve Stickel, from October 3 through November 13.

Broad Spectrum featured art quilts by artists who are members of the Studio Arts Quilt Associates Montana/Idaho region. Artists were invited to explore and interpret a variety of meanings, images, and experiences evoked by the theme, Broad Spectrum: Abundant Palette.

Steve Stickel worked with intricate faux beadwork, the unique forms of local wood, and the art of lathe turning to shape wood in a way that is both functional and expressive.

Both exhibits were enjoyable to view, and the craftsmanship was extraordinary.

Steve Stickel



Annual Holiday Exhibition and Art Squared



The final exhibit of the year was thoughtfully designed with gift giving in mind. Many artists participated in both the Holiday Sale and the Art Squared exhibitions, making the gallery a showcase of creativity and variety. The Holiday Sale featured a broad selection of unique pottery pieces, striking sculptures, hand-crafted journals, ornaments, kids art kits and more, providing patrons with plenty of options for gift giving. Meanwhile, Art Squared filled the gallery with beautiful small-scale paintings and works by well-known artists, adding a sense of fun and excitement to the event. By offering these two categories, the museum created a dynamic and engaging atmosphere where visitors could admire, purchase, and gift exceptional art, perfectly capturing the spirit of the holiday season.



WATERWORKS ART MUSEUM PRESENTS

Annual **Juried Exhibit**

Sponsored by



Montana's Brand of Banking

Stockman Bank sponsorship allows us to hold this special event each year. This event showcases 39 artists from across the United States. These artists use many different mediums. We thank Stockman Bank for all of their support throughout the years.

Annual Juried Exhibition

The WaterWorks Art Museum will unveil its 47th Annual Juried Exhibition, “Whispers of Color,” showcasing 70 pieces by 39 talented artists. Sponsored by Stockman Bank, the event begins with a public opening reception on January 30th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, where guests can enjoy complimentary admission and cast votes for the People’s Choice award.

This year’s theme, “Whispers of Color,” highlights a diverse array of artistic techniques—oil, acrylic, watercolor, sculpture, drawing, encaustic, photography, digital media, and mixed media—spanning both representational and abstract styles.

The exhibition is juried by Jordan Pehler, a lifelong artist and educator based in Billings. Pehler has held roles as Education Director at the WaterWorks Art Museum in Miles City and Art Educator at the Yellowstone Art Museum, in Billings MT. and currently teaches in Billings Public Schools, inspiring students through his creative vision.

Outside his teaching, Pehler finds inspiration in Montana’s sweeping landscapes. He spends his free time fly fishing along rivers, hiking public lands, and tending his garden—experiences that infuse his art with a sense of rhythm and tranquility. Pehler works primarily in encaustic, blending beeswax and oil pigment to create layered, semi-translucent surfaces. His technique produces evocative images that hover between clarity and mystery, reflecting his fascination with both material exploration and contemplative depth. Jordan will announce his prize winners around 5:15pm during the opening reception.

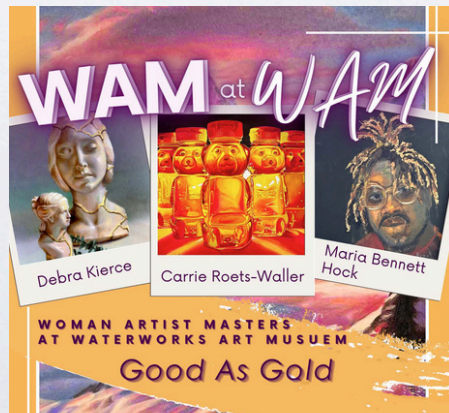
Guests at the opening will enjoy refreshments with hospitality provided by the Beta Sigma Ph Xi-Gamma sorority. The exhibition will remain on view through March 12th.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS & EVENTS

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Jan. 30 - March 12
Annual Juried
Exhibition



March 20 - May 7
GOOD AS GOLD
Debra Keirce, Maria Bennett Hock, &
Carrie Roets-Waller



May 15 - June 18
Western Art Roundup
Gwendolyn Kern, Trish Stevenson, &
Brad Bohl

2026 **Exhibits & Events**

JANUARY 30 - MARCH 12 ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION
"WHISPERS OF COLOR"

MARCH 20 - MAY 7 "GOOD AS GOLD" DEBRA KEIRCE,
MARIA BENNETT HOCK, AND CARRIE ROETS-WALLER

MAY 15 - JUNE 18 "THE WESTERN ART ROUNDUP"
GWENDOLYN KERN, TRISH STEVENSON, AND BRAD BOHL

MAY 16 QUICK DRAW @ RIVERSIDE PARK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OPEN STUDIO

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

We encourage artists, WAM students, and members to use our studio spaces on Wednesday evenings to work on their own projects and commune with other creative minds!

CLAY STUDIO:
\$60/\$75 - 6 months
(member/non-member)

GENERAL SPACE
\$50/75 - 6 months
(member/non-member)

ADULT CLASSES

Wheel Throwing Thurs. February 5 - March 19 - 6pm - 8pm
This 7-week class is especially designed to include those who are working on basic skills. The course includes wedging, centering clay, throwing basic bowl, plate, and cylinder forms, finishing, handles and glazing. No experience required, and all potters receive substantial individual attention.

Members: \$135
Non-Members: \$185

Glass Spinner Class Thurs. February 5 - March 12 6pm - 8pm

Come put a spin on traditional stained glass. Learn to construct a colorful wind catcher that spins and sparkles in the sunlight. Students are given creative freedom with choice of glass colors, spinner pattern, and size. Fundamental instructions for cutting glass, foiling, and soldering will be covered. No experience necessary. Adults are welcomed to grab a spot and join the fun in creating a hypnotic glass spinner that's uniquely yours.

KIDS WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

Bonny Beth, our dedicated education director, is diligently planning a variety of upcoming classes for both adults and children. She's mapping out her ideas and will soon determine which offerings will make the final schedule. Specific dates and times will be shared later this winter, so be sure to follow our Facebook page and website for the latest updates.

Every class led by Bonny Beth is both entertaining and educational. Her infectious enthusiasm makes you want to come back for more, and she's curating an exciting selection of new classes for all ages. Not only is she coming up with fresh concepts, but she's also thoughtfully evaluating which ones will bring the greatest benefit and enjoyment to our community. Bonny Beth is dedicated to building a schedule that suits everyone's interests and is always eager to receive your input!

If you haven't joined one of Bonny Beth's classes yet, you're in for a wonderful experience. Her friendly nature, high energy, and engaging teaching methods ensure each session is enjoyable and enriching. Many attendees are inspired by her passion for learning and frequently return for future classes. Bonny Beth puts extra effort into crafting original classes you won't find anywhere else, making each one truly special. We look forward to welcoming you and exploring new things together!



WAM once again was present at the Christmas market on the two days following Thanksgiving. Kids had the opportunity to make different art related ornaments and holiday fare. Board members and Key Club members helped at the various stations. These art projects continue to be very popular at the market with many children taking part in all that was offered.

WaterWorks Art Museum

Kids Outreach Education & Adult Classes

The adult wheel throwing classes taught by Jerry and Jake are always popular



Stained glass classes taught by Travis, Emma, and Prairie have been a big hit



WAM spends the school year visiting area one-room schools

Glendive Homeschool



Riverview



SY



Cohagen



Bloomfield



Biddle





MUSEUM STORE

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Support local artists! Everything in our museum store is made by artists that support WAM or exhibit in our gallery.

PLEASE NOTE: A 3% SERVICE FEE IS ADDED TO EACH CREDIT CARD SALE



**FINE ART
JEWELRY
CERAMICS
BOOKS
CARDS**

**SCULPTURE
GLASS ART
ORNAMENTS
PRINTS
AND MORE!**



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*Thank
you*

From memberships & donations, to purchasing items from the gift store and art from exhibits, to attending events and volunteering; everything you help us with is appreciated. We also thank funders that help us throughout the year. These include the Montana Community Foundation, Allen Foundation, Ed and Jessica Stickney Foundation, and the Custer County Art Center Foundation. The Montana Arts Council helps WAM every year, and many others give their time and hard work. We are grateful for each and every one of you! We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

EXHIBIT SPONSORS & DONOR rock stars



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**Thank
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Travis & Juanita Stinson

Linda Wiedeman



Montana's Brand of Banking



**MONTANA
ARTS COUNCIL**
an agency of state government

**MONTANA
CULTURAL
TRUST**

Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust.



**Notbohm
motors**



CHEVROLET
MILES CITY, MONTANA

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS:

**January 30-
March 12**

Annual Juried Exhibition
Opening reception Jan. 30, 4-7pm

**March 20 -
May 7**

GOOD AS GOLD
Opening reception March 20, 4-7pm

May 15 - June 18

Western Art Roundup
Opening reception May 15, 4-7pm

May 16

Quick Draw @ Riverside Park
After the parade approximately 10:30am

Jan. 30 - Dec. 31

closed January 1
- January 29 for
deep cleaning
and
maintenance

Please note WAM
is closed
**Sundays and
Mondays**



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