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## **MONTANA MUSEUM OF ART & CULTURE HIRES NEW CURATOR**

### **MISSOULA—**

Brandon Reintjes has been selected as the new curator of The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana.

As curator, he will be responsible for the overall management of the museum's Permanent Collection, have primary input on selecting and curating exhibitions, and serve as an important liaison to the regional artist community.

Reintjes, originally from **Bozeman**, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of Art Institute of Chicago and recently completed a master's of art in curatorial and critical studies at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

"I am delighted to join the Montana Museum of Art & Culture as curator of art," Reintjes said. "It is my honor and pleasure to advocate for and serve in trust on behalf of the state's oldest fine arts collection. The arts in Montana are a force as unassailable and as compelling as the state's natural beauty – both exhilarating and renewing."

Reintjes said his goal is to help galvanize the identity of the already progressive museum by working to gain the momentum needed for it to expand into a building of its own and that he will continue to work with artists to develop compelling, educational and inspired programming.

"Brandon was selected from among nearly 100 applicants for the position," said MMAC Director Barbara Koostra. "He knows the Montana arts community and has a thorough understanding of museum operations and building projects."

Before graduate school, Reintjes spent four years at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, where he was curator of exhibitions and collections. While there, he organized exhibitions such as “Frances Senska: A Life in Art”; “Nick Cave: Soundsuits”; a survey of artists from Missoula titled “Over the Divide: Montana’s New Garde”; and work by the Whitney Biennial artist Roman de Salvo. He also managed the museum’s permanent collection.

Reintjes worked at the Akron Art Museum in Akron, Ohio, where he helped reinstall the collections and galleries following the museum’s much-anticipated 2006 expansion. It was there that he was introduced to the work of the artist El Anatsui, about whom he wrote for his graduate thesis. He recently presented his research at the 2009 Nordic Africa Institute conference in Uppsala, Sweden.

While in graduate school in Louisville, Reintjes worked for two years in the office of the director for the Speed of Art Museum. With a building expansion on the horizon, Reintjes was charged with two key initiatives: conducting an institutional benchmarking survey that measured the museum against eight similar institutions to analyze areas of potential growth and executing the architectural selection process.

Articles by Reintjes have been published in Surface Design Journal, Resource Library magazine, Black Robin Press, Drumlummon Views and the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Journal, among others.

“Brandon comes to us with glowing reviews, a team spirit and a great deal of energy,” Koostra said. “We look forward to his leadership at MMAC.”

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