Artwork By American Master John Baldessari On View At UM

MISSOULA –

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana will host “Hands and/or Feet (Part One Hat/Gun/Bird)” by artist John Baldessari in UM’s Main Hall President’s Office lobby through June 10.

The artwork can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except University holidays.

A wonderfully representative work by Baldessari, this large-scale three-dimensional print is on loan to MMAC from an anonymous lender. The museum brings artwork by internationally known artists to campus annually as part of its Visiting Artworks program.

Baldessari is an enormously influential American artist whose art and teaching career at The California Institute of Arts and the University of California, Los Angeles, have profoundly affected a generation of artists.

Initially a painter, Baldessari began to incorporate texts and photography into his canvases in the mid-1960s, as a means of questioning the status and nature of painting. He rejected the medium entirely in 1970, burning most of his previous works on canvas in what he termed his “Cremation Project.” Since then he has worked with photography, text, video, collage and installation to explore fundamental questions about art.

Baldessari has received honorary doctorates from the National University of Ireland and Burren College of Art. He has participated in important exhibitions, including Documenta, the Venice Biennale, and seven Whitney Biennials. He has been included in “Art in the Twenty-first Century,” the PBS documentary series about contemporary visual art in the United States, and his work has been shown in more than 120 solo exhibitions and 300 group exhibitions.

Baldessari is currently the subject of a major retrospective traveling to the Tate Modern, London; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Complementing the Baldessari print at UM are two works from MMAC’s Permanent Collection by David Salle and R.B. Kitaj. All three artists are American Pop/Appropriation artists that use pre-existing imagery from popular visual culture as a way to construct images.

For more information visit the MMAC website at http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum or call 406-243-2019.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Digital images of select items included in the exhibition are available by calling 406-243-2019.

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