MISSOULA –

The Montana Museum of Art and Culture at The University of Montana will present “A Conversation with Barry Hood” at 3 p.m. Friday, May 6, in the Montana Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

The talk, which is free and open to the public, is in conjunction with an MMAC exhibition of Hood’s sculptural glass titled “Barry Hood: Flow” on display in the museum’s Meloy Gallery through May 21.

A First Friday reception from 4 to 6 p.m. in the PAR/TV Center lobby will follow Hood’s talk. Music will be provided by Montana favorite Tom Catmull.

Hood creates cast bas-relief and blown sculptural glass. His characteristic work, with its convoluted, undulating surface, forms as molten glass burns within a wooden mold. The glass begins to consume the wood before cooling into solid cores. Hood’s bas-reliefs, on the other hand, use the process of shallow sand casting. He finishes his pieces by generously incorporating a range of evocative materials – wrought iron, natural found objects and raw pigments – to comment on ecology and humanity’s relationship with the environment.

“Every day we are surrounded by glass: perfect windows and flawless stemware,” he said. “In a culture that continues to move farther and farther away from the natural world and is so focused on the glamorous, shiny surface of life, I find that I am far more interested in the beauty of imperfection.”

Hood has strong Montana ties that stretch back four generations. His great-grandfather, George McCone, rode a Pony Express route between Bismarck, N.D., and Miles City from 1878 to 1882, brought the first cattle to Glendive, served as a state senator and had a county in eastern Montana named for him.

Because of that history, Hood settled in Montana. A UM alumnus, Hood began his studies in 1966 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1973, working with noted ceramist Rudy Autio. He moved away from ceramics in the mid-1970s to create stained glass and architectural glass commissions for large public spaces and private homes. Hood turned to sculpture after attending Pilchuck Glass School outside of Seattle in the summer of 1997.

MMAC gallery hours are from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Guided tours are available. For more information visit the museum’s 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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