SEASONAL SNAPSHOT

FALL 2020
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

Enjoy your glimpse into behind-the-scenes news and updates at your world-class museum.

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FALL HOURS*

Through September 13, 2020
Museum & Store | Daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Living History Farm | Wed. – Sun., 12 – 4 p.m.

September 14 – December 31, 2020
Museum & Store | Daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
3 p.m. Early Museum Closures: 9/23 & 12/24
Annual Museum Closures: 9/24, 11/26, 12/25, & 1/1

*Subject to change, please confirm before visiting.
Dear MOR Members,

As Nobel Prize-winning chemist Ilya Prigogine once stated, “The future is uncertain... but this uncertainty is the very heart of human creativity.” This quote feels applicable to our COVID-19 era. For many of us, our individual and institutional plans have been hurled into ambiguity. Yet, out of chaos and challenge comes opportunity and inspiration. I see that at the museum as we reimagine education programs, explore new ways to connect to members, and plan innovative exhibits.

As a result of the uncertainty of our times, you will find in this publication, that we have forgone the traditional calendar of events. In the near term, please rely on our website calendar, MOR Monthly Bites member emails, social media posts, and postcards to keep you informed on our upcoming events and programming.

One of the most successful 2019 public fall events was the theatrical production Haunted Mountain Theater. Unfortunately, to ensure social distancing, this event is postponed until 2021. The good news is that we are exploring a new event called Chilling Campfire Tours. This progressive show will explore Montana’s unnerving history and lore, infusing storytelling and spooky art installations by firelight – you never know what might be lurking in the shadows! This small, outdoor group presentation is a prime example of how the staff (and art students from MSU) are working to creatively bring our mission to life while creating a safe environment for the public.

While the Board and staff have done a stellar job of making lemons out of lemonade, the museum still struggles. Nearly fifty percent of our annual income is derived from admissions and the Museum Store. The necessary COVID-19 closure and mandatory restraints on attendance have been deeply felt. Many members and friends have graciously supported the MOR Response Drive. However, for MOR to move ahead and maintain its incredible staff, collections, and programs, we still need your help. I ask that you please Give the Gift by purchasing a membership for someone and help support MOR through your year-end giving.

On behalf of all of us at Museum of the Rockies, thank you. Thank you for being part of our museum family. Thank you for attending programs, being members, and donating to a place that inspires people of all ages and backgrounds. Together we will traverse these uncertain times and build upon human creativity.

see you at the museum,

Christopher Dobbs,
Executive Director

Thank You to our NAB Leadership!

We wish to thank Iris M.-L. Model for her service to MOR as the outgoing chair of the National Advisory Board (NAB) and welcome Edward W. (Ned) Phares as the incoming chair. The NAB is a group of visionary supporters from across the United States who help the museum move to new heights.
CHILLING CAMPFIRE TOURS
A TRIP THROUGH MONTANA HISTORY & LORE

Join us for an outdoor, progressive, live theater show that incorporates storytelling and sculpture to bring Montana’s darker history and folklore to life. Each tour is approximately 45-minutes in length and is led by a Spirit Guide who will take you to five stops along the route. By the flicker of firelight, you never know what your eyes might see!

October 17, 23, & 24 | 6 – 8:45 p.m.
Tours of 16 or fewer people are available in 15-minute increments.
Face masks or appropriate face coverings are required.
This event is recommended for people age seven (7) and up only.

MOR Members: $8/child, $12/adult
Public: $10/child, $14/adult

Purchase tickets at museumoftherockies.org/campfire

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Museum News

2020 Museum of the Rockies, Inc. Bylaw Changes

In 2019, the Board of Trustees appointed an ad hoc committee to review MOR Inc.’s current bylaws and make recommendations for revisions, clarifications, and amendments to those bylaws. In June 2020, the Committee completed its charge and submitted its recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees both of which unanimously approved the committee’s work.

Members, please go to museumoftherockies.org/bylaws for a copy of MOR Inc’s current bylaws and the committee’s “redline” version reflecting the recommended changes.

Please also use the above link to vote for the proposed bylaw changes by October 15, 2020.

Thank you for voting!

2020 Museum of the Rockies, Inc. Board of Trustees Election

Members are encouraged to cast their votes for our Board of Trustees candidates later this fall. The museum will be sending email ballots to our general and business members who are opted-in to receive museum emails. You may request a voting link or a paper ballot by sending an email to halley.perry@montana.edu or by calling 406.994.6223. Thank you for voting!

2019 Annual Report

Last year’s annual report is available to view and download from our website at museumoftherockies.org/report.
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

By: Curator of Art & Photography Steve Jackson

Focusing in on Thomas D. Mangelsen and A Life in the Wild

Museum of the Rockies is excited to present A Life in the Wild, an exhibition of photographs by legendary nature photographer Thomas Mangelsen. Described as his legacy collection, Thomas Mangelsen’s exhibition presents 40 wildlife and landscape photographs selected from over four million images taken during his life as a photographer.

Showcasing his award-winning signature photographs from all seven continents, the exhibition reflects his extensive knowledge of animal behavior and capturing images of wildlife in their natural surroundings. With a career spanning more than four decades, Mangelsen is one of the most recognized names in wildlife photography. His accomplishments as a photographer have been compared to the work of Ansel Adams or Elliot Porter, and recognized by collectors and museums for his lasting contribution to the photographic arts.

Describing the impact of his photographs on viewers, Mangelsen says that “I hope that they can put themselves in that place for a moment, get some joy out of it, appreciate it for what it is, and hopefully protect it in some way.”

His longtime friend Jane Goodall, writes about Mangelsen, “His photographs inspire me because they wake us up to what is at stake. When I think of the very talented nature photographers, I’ve been fortunate to know - counted among the very best who ever lived - I consider Tom Mangelsen to be an American treasure.”

Mangelsen’s work has been featured in numerous publications, including National Geographic, Audubon, Newsweek, and Smithsonian.

Making an Impression with Seven Masters

At the beginning of the 20th century, traditional Japanese woodblock printing, known as ukiyo-e, was undergoing changes influenced by contemporary Western culture. In the early 1900s, Japanese woodblock artists created a new style called shin-hanga that combined the traditional print forms of portraiture and landscape with an influence of 20th century modernism.

This fall, Museum of the Rockies will present Seven Masters: 20th Century Japanese Woodblock Prints, an exhibition that focuses on seven artists who played a significant role in developing this new print style. Selected from the superb collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the exhibition includes portrait works by Hashiguchi Goyo, Ito Shinsui, Yamakawa Shuho, and Torii Kotondo, kabuki actor works by Yamamura Koka (Toyaonari) and Notori Shunsen, and landscapes by Kawase Hasui.

The shin-hanga print style retained many of the traditional compositions of ukiyo-e, including landscapes, kabuki actors, and beautiful women, but also expressed the influences of Impressionist painting and photography through attention to light, mood, and optical perspective. Included in the exhibition is a selection of pencil drawings and rare printing proofs, offering the viewer insight into the challenging process of woodblock printing. This exhibition presents a rare selection of internationally recognized Japanese woodblock prints by some of the best shin-hanga artists.

Shin-hanga artists lived in a new era of international travel, mass media, and industrialization. In addition to adopting the use of modern papers and pigments, shin-hanga artists were influenced by Western artists studying printmaking in Japan. Their prints became popular with Western art dealers and collectors in the 1920s and 30s, establishing international recognition for the style.
Experience an exhibition containing many of Mangelsen’s most resonant images - images that take viewers on a journey into the haunts of iconic species whose struggles for survival are metaphorical fulcrums for reflection in the 21st century.

The exhibition was produced by Thomas D. Mangelsen, Inc. and David J. Wagner, L.L.C.

In the first half of the 20th century, a desire to revive the great Japanese tradition of woodblock prints and simultaneously capture the dynamic, modern life of Japan, gave rise to an art movement known as shin hanga, the new print.

The exhibition was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

The Montana Arts Council is 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.
Dear Members,

Sixty-three years ago, Dr. Caroline McGill and a group of dedicated volunteers hauled an extraordinary collection of Montana historical objects into three Quonset huts on the MSU campus. So began Museum of the Rockies! These first museum members cataloged the artifacts, arranged exhibits, and welcomed visitors to the museum. From its infancy, members have been the lifeblood of this organization.

Today, over 6,000 member households and businesses from 44 states and Washington, D.C. make up our community of lifelong learning enthusiasts. One third have been members for over ten years! They are connecting with their museum in a myriad of ways as each member finds their own niche. Prior to COVID-19, our youngest members attended weekly Tours for Tots classes, some volunteered, and others celebrated with us during member events like Mindbender Mansion Game Night and Reptile Reveal (where so many members joined us that there was a traffic jam leading to MOR!). From revamping the Annual Members Meeting so members can connect with curators to hosting behind the scenes tours for business members, we are dedicated to creating a more inspiring membership experience for you.

How do you connect to MOR? Be sure to take advantage of your membership discount in the Museum Store and when signing up for camps. Celebrate the newest exhibits during our members-only exhibit previews where you may have the opportunity to meet the artist or expert behind the exhibit. When you feel it is safe to travel again, take advantage of the ASTC Passport program, where your MOR membership can be used for free or reduced admission to over 378 other participating museums worldwide!

You, our loyal members, are an integral part of the museum. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, you have offered encouragement, renewed your memberships, and given generously to the MOR Response Drive. During this critical time, your gifts allow us to continue to deliver new offerings and keep you learning, exploring, and growing!

If you have not already contributed to the MOR Response Drive, please consider making a gift today!

Sincerely,

Callie Hamilton
Membership & Annual Giving Manager
EDUCATION

By Director of Education & Public Programs Angie Weikert

Staying Connected to our Schools, Members, Visitors, and Volunteers

Education and serving the public are part of the core of the mission of museums. When Museum of the Rockies was closed to the public, our museum felt different without you. It wasn’t like an exciting night at the museum or after-hours event; it was quiet and, honestly, a bit lonely. Our museum is accustomed to a full parking lot, exciting exhibit openings, and sold-out programs. Without all of you here in person – our members, visitors, and volunteers – our museum community feels different.

As museums around the world were closed to the public for several months, many of us in the museum education field have had to quickly rethink our regular programs that cater to a variety of audiences. Some of our programs went virtual, some have carefully returned, and others remain suspended going into the fall.

This spring, we stayed connected with schools through live stream programs, which reached 7,900 students during the museum’s closure. We are so pleased that students from far away took part in these programs, including children from Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and several Canadian providences (to name a few).

In June, we welcomed back our first in-person program participants since mid-March through our summer camp programs. Putting in place new requirements to protect public health meant that the campers stay in small groups and that our instructors are vigilant, but these changes are working well. We can’t express enough how rewarding it was to connect with our museum families again!

We continue to stay connected to our volunteers virtually. We are offering continuing education programs with our volunteers leading the charge. They are sharing their knowledge and specialties. They are, again, gifting us with their time and effort.

As we look to the fall, we are optimistic we will continue to slowly invite back our community from this online interlude. The in-person programs that will return will offer a museum experience that provides more than the virtual environment; we will connect with each other and the objects that tell our community’s rich history.

For this fall, please visit our website for a complete list of programming, including virtual and in-person events. Do you have an idea for staying connected? We would love to hear about it. Please send us an email at programs@montana.edu.
“In this wide field every earnest effort will meet some degree of success: every year will add new and important facts; and every generation will bring to light some law, in accordance with which ancient life has been changed into life as we see it around us to-day.” — O.C. Marsh

O.C. Marsh addressing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Nashville, August 1877.

PALEONTOLOGY

By Histology Lab Manager Ellen-Thérèse Lamm

Paleohistology Provides Collaborations & Clues

Nearly 130 years ago paleontologist J.B. Hatcher, later crowned the “King of Collectors”, discovered and excavated an extraordinary ceratopsian dinosaur specimen with three horns and two large openings in its frill from the Upper Cretaceous Lance Formation in Eastern Wyoming. This specimen would be named *Torosaurus gladius* by the renowned Yale Professor O.C. Marsh in 1891 and was assigned the specimen number YPM (Yale Peabody Museum) 1831.

In the 2010 scientific publication “*Torosaurus Is Triceratops,*” Dr. John B. Scannella and John R. Horner presented evidence that YPM 1831 was actually a fully-grown adult *Triceratops*, and not a separate dinosaur (*Torosaurus*). Other investigators subsequently conducted analyses of the bone fusion and external anatomy of the skull, in the publications “*Torosaurus Is Not Triceratops*” (Yale researchers Longrich & Field, 2012), and “*Is Torosaurus Triceratops?*” (Maiorino et al., 2013), suggesting that this same specimen was not a *Triceratops*, and that *Torosaurus* was still a valid taxon.
Here is where histology can help! For the last 35 years, Museum of the Rockies has led the way in the United States in the field of paleohistology, extensively examining the microscopic structure of dinosaur bones. Young bone, mature bone, and all of the stages of growth in-between have very distinct patterns, processes and tissue types that can be visualized under the microscope, then described and measured. This information can next be aligned with the dramatic changes in the external anatomy, that we see occurring as an animal matures. In this case, in the skull of a ceratopsian dinosaur.

MOR’s long-standing reputation in histology helped Dr. Scannella, now our John R. Horner Curator of Paleontology, to secure permission to sample this scientifically and historically important specimen. In 2017, John travelled to Yale Peabody Museum and worked with Chief Preparator in Vertebrate Paleontology Marilyn Fox, to extract a sample of the horn from the intact skull of YPM 1831, a process that Marilyn described as “an adventure”.

John returned to Bozeman with this crucial cargo, and I was honored to be entrusted with the task of producing thin-section slides from a fossil specimen that had been collected over 125 years earlier!

At the 2018 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, Marilyn, John, and I convened and proudly presented our work-to-date to our colleagues. One poster focused on the technical aspects of the project and museum collaboration, and the other on the preliminary scientific analyses of the material. This specimen will now become part of a comprehensive histological examination of ceratopsian specimens. More will be revealed as the results of this project are being prepared for publications to further explore YPM 1831’s accurate place in the paleo record, and to add to the story-line of its substantial and intriguing scientific history.

Scientific Publications:
HISTORY

By Registrar & Collections Manager of Cultural History Lisa Verwys

A Wild Ride

Depending on who you ask, there are only two seasons in Montana: winter and rodeo. The sport of rodeo is one of the west’s enduring pastimes, and Bozeman is no exception. The town became home to a brand-new rodeo arena when it celebrated the first Bozeman Roundup in 1919.

The Bozeman Roundup featured a rodeo, parade, and Wild West show. Over 12,000 spectators came to the arena to cheer as cowboys and cowgirls competed for cash prizes. The excited crowds would shout out the rodeo’s slogan, She’s Wild!

After the 1926 Bozeman Roundup, the stadium was severely damaged by lightning. It was never repaired and was eventually dismantled for scrap.

MOR’s history collection includes a set of picture postcards taken at the Bozeman Roundup. The postcards feature some of the famous cowgirls who came to compete in Bozeman, including Bonnie McCarroll, Mabel Strickland, and Prairie Rose Henderson. Throughout the early decades of the 1900s, women riders had gained respect, recognition, and increased opportunities to compete at rodeos.

At the Bozeman Roundup and rodeos around the country, women competed in many events. Women’s athleticism and grit were rewarded in events ranging from roping and trick riding to rough stock events like bronc and bull riding. Unfortunately, after Bonnie McCarroll died in a 1929 rodeo accident, women’s rodeo events were severely limited. However, women kept fighting for their sport, eventually creating all-women rodeos and women’s professional rodeo associations.
Enjoy a Warm Salmon Bowl at Freshies, and your purchase supports MOR!

Order online at freshiescafe.com

MEMBERS-ONLY ANNUAL SALE
20% OFF
NOVEMBER 27 THROUGH DECEMBER 6

MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY
25% OFF
ONE DAY SALE NOVEMBER 29
GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Share all that you love about MOR with your friends and family. With a gift membership, you can experience our exhibits, programs, and classes together. So, share the joy this season and give a gift that lasts all year long.

Purchase a gift membership at the Front Desk, call 406.994.6054, email members@montana.edu, or online at museumoftherockies.org/gift.