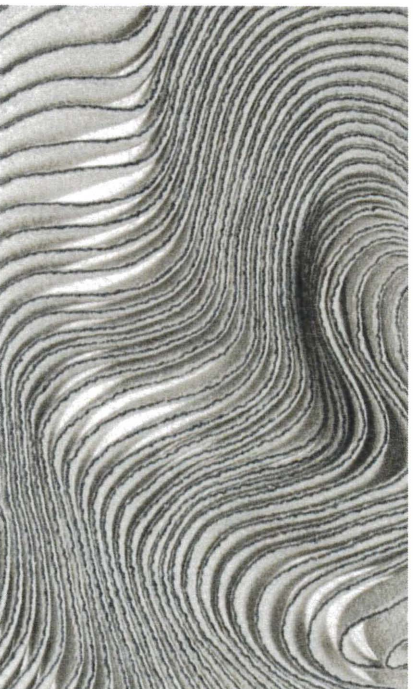


NEWS RELEASE

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The Exquisite Gorge Project II to Feature Regional Fiber Artists

Maryhill Museum of Art's Collaborative Art Project Will Bring Together Artists and Communities Along the Columbia River in Summer 2022

(GOLDENDALE, Wash., August 18, 2021) -- Maryhill Museum of Art announces a second major community-based art project, The Exquisite Gorge Project II: Fiber Arts, in summer 2022.

During the project, 12 regional fiber artists are slated to work with communities along 220 miles of the Columbia River from the Willamette Confluence in Portland to the Snake River Confluence near Walla Walla, Washington.

Drawing inspiration from the people, the landscape and the river, artists will design an original fiber-based artwork in collaboration with the local community and a designated community partner. The 11 finished works will connect to adjacent sections to create a large, 66-foot flowing sculpture with the Columbia River as a central element.

The Exquisite Gorge Project was inspired by the Surrealist parlor game "Exquisite Corpse," a drawing game where participants take turns drawing sections of a body on a piece of paper folded to hide each successive contribution. In the case of the The Exquisite Gorge Project, the Columbia River is the "body" that unifies the collaboration between artists and communities.

"The Columbia River weaves lives together in the most amazing ways," says Louise Palermo, Curator of Education at Maryhill Museum of Art and founder of the Exquisite Gorge Project. "The Exquisite Gorge Project brings artists

and communities together to explore their experiences and stories of living along the Columbia River. We are excited to have an incredibly talented group of fiber artists who will bring creativity and their unique vision to the project.”

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS & PROGRAMS

Louise Palermo, Maryhill’s Curator of Education is the Project Director. Oregon-based artists Tammy Jo Wilson and Owen Premore will serve as Artistic Director and Technical Director respectively, working alongside artists Francisco and Laura Bautista, Lynn Deal, Ophir El-Boher, Carolyn Hazel Drake, Xander Griffith, Chloe Hight, Kristy Kun, Magda Nica, Jessica Lavadour, and Amanda Triplett. The participating artists work in a variety of textile and fiber-based media, from weaving, basketry, and repurposed textiles to quilt making, jewellery and felt making.

When the project gets underway in summer 2022, artists will collaborate with a Community Partner and interact with community members from their assigned stretch of the river to create unique installations, sculpture, and innovative designs attached to that specific site. They will also engage in programs meant to inspire and educate the public about fiber arts.

Maps and guides will encourage the public to visit each location and a culminating activity is planned for Saturday, **August 6, 2022 at Maryhill Museum of Art, where artists and each “exquisite corpse” section will be brought together to reveal the continuous artwork.**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & SPONSORS

In addition to the participating artists, there are many partner organizations and sponsors who will make the The Exquisite Gorge Project II possible. The following partners and artists will be paired on each section of the river.

- Section One: Oregon Society of Artists–Artist: Lynn Deal
- Section Two: Lewis and Clark University–Artist: Amanda Triplett
- Section Three: Columbia Center for the Arts, The History Museum of Hood River County and Arts in Education of the Gorge–Artist: Chloe Hight
- Section Four: White Salmon Arts Council and Fort Vancouver Regional Library–Artist: Xavier Griffin
- Section Five: The Dalles Arts Center and The Dalles-Wasco County Library–Artists: Francisco and Laura Bautista
- Section Six: The Fort Vancouver Regional Library at Goldendale Community Library–Artist: Carolyn Hazel Drake
- Section Seven: The American-Romanian Cultural Society and Maryhill Museum of Art–Artist: Magda Nica
- Section Eight: Desert Fiber Arts–Artist: Ophir El-Bohir
- Section Nine: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation–Artist: Jessica Lavadour
- Section Ten: ArtWalla–Artist: Kristy Kun

In addition to Maryhill Museum of Art, Columbia Fiber Arts Guild is a sponsor of the event. Anyone interested in supporting the project can contact Colleen Schafroth at 509- 773-3733 x 23 or development@maryhillmuseum.org.

HISTORY OF THE EXQUISITE GORGE PROJECT

Envisioned by the Curator of Education, Lou Palermo, Maryhill Museum of Art presented the first Exquisite Gorge Project during the summer of 2019, bringing together 11 printmakers to work in communities along the Columbia River. The culminating event was held at Maryhill, where artists and community gathered to watch as a 66-foot woodblock print was created using a steamroller.

The Exquisite Gorge Project was inspired by the Surrealist parlor game “Exquisite Corpse,” which began as a drawing game where participants each drew sections of a body on a piece of paper, which was then folded to hide each successive contribution. When unfolded, the whole body was revealed, showing each contribution.

In the case of The Exquisite Gorge Project, the Columbia River is the “body” that unifies the collaboration between artists and communities. The end product is a flowing 66-foot artwork that tells conceptual stories of the Columbia River and its people.

For more information visit www.maryhillmuseum.org/exquisite-gorge-project-2022.

Image above: Detail from the series “Amplified” by artist Kristy Kun.

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ABOUT MARYHILL MUSEUM OF ART:

Housed in a glorious Beaux Arts mansion on 5,300 acres high above the Columbia River, Maryhill Museum of Art opened to the public May 13, 1940 and today remains one of the Pacific Northwest's most enchanting cultural destinations. The museum was founded by Northwest entrepreneur and visionary Sam Hill, who purchased the property and began building the house with dreams of establishing a Quaker farming community. When that goal proved untenable, Hill was encouraged by friends Lolie Fuller, Queen Marie of Romania, and Alma de Breteville Spreckles to establish a museum.

Maryhill Museum of Art boasts a renowned permanent collection, rotating exhibitions of the highest caliber, and dynamic educational programs that provide opportunities for further exploration by visitors of all ages. On view are more than 80 works by Auguste Rodin, European and American paintings, objects d'art from the palaces of the Queen of Romania, Orthodox icons, unique chess sets, and the renowned Théâtre de la Mode, featuring small-scale mannequins attired in designer fashions of post-World War II France. Baskets of the indigenous people of North America were a collecting interest of Hill; today the museum's American Indian collection represents nearly every tradition and style in North America, with works of art from prehistoric through contemporary.

Maryhill's William and Catherine Dickson Sculpture Park features more than a dozen large-scale works by Northwest artists. The Maryhill Overlook is a site-specific sculpture by noted Portland architect Brad Cloepfil; nearby are Lewis and Clark interpretive panels. Four miles east of Maryhill is a life-sized replica of Stonehenge, Stonehenge Memorial, which Sam Hill built to memorialize local men who perished in World War I. Nearby, the Klickitat County War Memorial honors those who have died in the service of their country since World War I.

The museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. In 2001 the museum was listed as an official site of the National Historic Lewis and Clark Trail and in 2002 was accredited by the American Association of Museums. In 2012 the museum opened the Mary and Bruce Stevenson Wing, a 25,500 square foot expansion that is the first in the museum's history. The new wing boasts the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust Education Center, a collections storage and research suite, a new cafe and terrace, and the Cannon Power Plaza with an installation of sculpture, and sweeping views of the Columbia River Gorge and Mount Hood in the distance.

MUSEUM HOURS:

Maryhill Museum of Art is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 15 through November 15. The Gardens & Grounds are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at no charge. Admission to the Stonehenge Memorial is free; it is open from dawn to dusk daily.

TICKETS / ADMISSION RATES:

Purchase in advance at maryhillmuseum.org. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$9 for college students with I.D., \$5 for youth age 7-18 and free for children 6 and under. Maryhill participates in Museums for All, with admission set at \$2 per person with an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and a valid form of photo ID. Rate is valid for up to four individuals per EBT card.

MUSEUM AMENITIES:

Sandwiches, salads, espresso drinks, cold beverages, and freshly baked desserts and pastries, as well as a selection of local wines and craft beer are available at the museum's cafe, Lolie's, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily; the Museum Store features art and history books, jewelry and other mementos. Picnic tables are located on the museum grounds.

DIRECTIONS:

Maryhill Museum of Art overlooks the Columbia River on Washington's SR 14, just west of **US 97**, 12 miles south of Goldendale, Washington; it is a scenic 45 minute drive from Hood River, Oregon and 30 minutes from The Dalles, Oregon. Drive times are 2 hours from Portland/Vancouver, 3.5 hours from Bend, 4 hours from Seattle, and 1.5 hours from Yakima. For further information, visit maryhillmuseum.org.