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Exhibit and documentary celebrate life of photographer Evelyn Cameron

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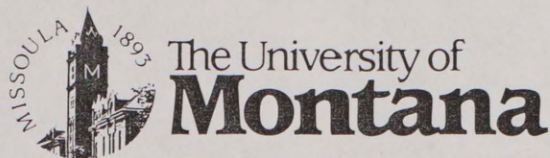
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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 7, 2005

Contact: Barbara Koostra, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, (406) 243-2019, or William Marcus, KUFM-TV, (406) 243-4101.

EXHIBIT AND DOCUMENTARY CELEBRATE LIFE OF PHOTOGRAPHER EVELYN CAMERON

MISSOULA—

The Montana Historical Society's nationally acclaimed exhibit "Photographing Montana 1894-1928: The World of Evelyn Cameron" opens Wednesday, Oct. 19, at The University of Montana's Montana Museum of Art and Culture.

The opening reception takes place from 7 to 7:45 p.m. in the museum's Paxson Gallery, located in the University's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Immediately following the opening, a special screening of the one-hour Montana PBS documentary "Evelyn Cameron, Pictures from a Worthy Life" will take place in the Montana Theatre.

The exhibit includes 47 striking photographs reproduced from Cameron's glass plate nitrate negatives that record the early days on the western frontier and the coming of the homesteaders that changed the face of the land forever.

The photographs are unique for many reasons, not the least of which is that they were taken from a woman's point of view. In addition to more than 1,400 negatives, Cameron left behind detailed diaries from her more than 30 years on the Montana plains. Her actual words are used to convey the personal feelings behind the photographs.

"The photographs are stunning, but what really informs us of this period of life before and during the homestead era are Cameron's diary entries," said Barbara Koostra, director of the museum. "Cameron's photographs of the land and people of the West are universally appealing.

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They depict day-to-day life in raw and emotional terms.”

In a style that approached modern, natural environment photography more than the formal portrait style of her day, Cameron captured the magnificence of the badlands and prairies as well as the cowboys and sheepherders who were at home there.

William Marcus, director of UM’s Broadcast Media Center, welcomed the opportunity to pair the exhibit with the documentary, which focuses on Cameron’s experiences in eastern Montana and her search for a worthy life and legacy.

“Evelyn Cameron’s photographs are strong, clear-eyed images of the pioneer lifestyle that shaped our state and her character,” Marcus said.

Cameron came to Montana from England in 1889 with her naturalist husband, Ewen, and took up photography in 1894, initially to provide illustrations for Ewen’s writings on the area’s birds and wildlife. The Camerons established a ranch near **Terry** and later, the lives of the homesteaders at work and play became her subjects. Her negatives and diaries weren’t brought to the public’s attention until recently.

The exhibit has been featured in numerous national publications and electronic productions, including Smithsonian magazine and the Charles Kuralt CBS Sunday Morning program.

The traveling version of the exhibit has appeared at museums nationwide.

For more information about the exhibit and the documentary, call KUFM-TV at (406) 243-4101 or the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at (406) 243-2019.

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