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NEWS RELEASE

April 27, 2009

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ART CONSERVATION EXPERT TO SPEAK AT UM

MISSOULA —

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana will present a free gallery talk by renowned art conservator Carmen Bria on Monday, May 11.

The talk begins at 7 p.m. in the Masquer Theatre, located in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Bria is owner, director and chief conservator for the Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts in Denver, Colo. For more than 25 years, the center has provided art conservation services nationwide to museums, galleries, artists, corporations, private clients and public institutions such as libraries. WCCFA recently added a location in Lander, Wyo.

"The job of all museums – including your own Montana Museum of Art & Culture – is to collect, interpret, exhibit and preserve the things which comprise our heritage," Bria said. "Without this preservation aspect of museums' missions, however, eventually they would have very little to collect, interpret and exhibit."

The UM gallery talk is in conjunction with the exhibition "The Fra Dana Collection: Preservation & Conservation," which is on view in MMAC's Paxson Gallery through Saturday, May 16. The exhibition showcases 23 paintings from MMAC's Permanent Collection that have all been recently restored with Bria as the lead conservator.

“The treatment each artwork received was based on a thorough assessment of its condition and a well-thought-out treatment plan,” Bria said.

Viewers can observe “before” photographs of the artworks alongside the restored paintings.

MMAC hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 4 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There is no charge for admission, and free parking is available near the PAR/TV Center.

For more information, call 406-243-2019 or go to the museum’s Web site at

<http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Digital images of selected artworks included in the exhibition are available by request. Call Becky Garner, MMAC coordinator of programs and publications, at 406-243-2019 or e-mail rebecca.garner@mso.umt.edu.

BG/bd

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