



This exhibition of neon sculptures explores issues of departure, travel and arrival, and incorporates stories from the artist's own experiences as an immigrant. In addition to neon, Volkercsz's interest in handcrafted furniture, found objects, clothing and folk art is revealed and used to develop a powerful array of symbology.

After World War II, Willem Volkercsz left Amsterdam with his family (at age fourteen) and emigrated to the United States. But he did not leave behind his strong ties to Dutch cultural traditions. These concerns survive in his art, though now they have become inevitably entwined with forms and impulses that are distinctly American in flavor, including billboards, neon, signage, found objects and folk art. The persistent modes of Dutch thought and feeling are found in his obsessions with themes of domesticity, relocation and the European genre of still life.

*Domestic Neon* is the basis for the 16th annual Fifth Grade Art Experience co-sponsored by the Art Associates of Missoula.

The exhibition premiered at the Museum of Neon Art in Los Angeles and will travel to The Emerson at Beall Park in Bozeman next year. The exhibition tour is sponsored by the Meadowlark Foundation and appears at the Art Museum of Missoula with generous support from the Art Associates of Missoula.

## *WILLEM VOLKERSZ: DOMESTIC NEON*

Art Museum of Missoula  
First Floor Gallery  
September 6 - December 1, 2002

ARTIST'S GALLERY TALK: Friday, September 6, 5:30 p.m.  
RECEPTION following: 6 - 8 p.m.

DOCENT TRAININGS FOR THE FIFTH GRADE ART EXPERIENCE:  
Artist Willem Volkercsz, Friday, September 6, 2 p.m.  
Art Educator Bobby Tilton, Thursday, September 12, 7 - 9 p.m.