

New federal courthouse will display Yellowstone Art Museum works

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December 30, 2011 12:15 am • By [CLAIR JOHNSON](#) Of [The Gazette Staff](#)

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The works of Montana artists Ted Waddell and Neil Jussila will be exhibited in the new federal courthouse in downtown Billings when it opens sometime late next year.

The federal General Services Administration, which is in charge of building the courthouse, has selected eight pieces from the Yellowstone Art Museum's community collection, said Nancy Clark, YAM's registrar.

Five of the pieces are by Waddell, a nationally recognized Modernist artist who was born in Billings, raised in Laurel and is now based in Hailey, Idaho. Four of the pieces are 2002 woodcuts titled, "Grey Cliff Angus I-IV," which were a gift to YAM from Donna Forbes, the museum's former director.

The fifth Waddell piece is a 1986 oil on paper titled, "Black Angus in Snow," which was donated to the museum in memory of Jean R. and Bruce Anderson.

Jussila, a Butte-raised art professor at Montana State University Billings and the region's premier abstract painter, will have two lithographs and one painting on display, Clark said. Jussila has been on the MSU Billings faculty since 1969.

The two lithographs are titled "Chinook," which was done in 1974, and "Stillwater Autumn," which was done in 1975. The oil on canvas, titled "The Crackerville Cable," was painted in 1970. All of the Jussila works were donated in memory of the Andersons.

"GSA is honored to partner with the Yellowstone Art Museum to enhance the federal buildings in Montana through the fine artistic works that are part of the museum's community collection," said Susan Damour, GSA's Rocky Mountain regional administrator. "GSA's goal is to improve our public spaces and highlight some of America's finest artists."

Robyn Peterson, YAM's executive director, said the works that are selected represent artists in the region. "We're proud to have them represent us," she said.

The art will be on loan to the GSA from YAM's community collection, which includes pieces the museum has available for public exhibit to broaden the exposure of YAM artists.

GSA officials said the agency will decide after the New Year whether the seven pieces on display on the fifth floor of the courthouse will move to the new building. Those works include pieces by Gary Nisbet, Ron Davis, Joseph Bohler, Ken Blackbird, Edith Freeman and John Pollock.

The \$59 million courthouse, located at North 26th Street and Second Avenue North, will be 147,000 square feet. Construction on the five-story courthouse began in October 2010. The building will have three courtrooms and house the



"Black Angus in Snow" by Ted Waddell will be on display in the new federal courthouse. The piece, donated to the Yellowstone Art Museum in memory of Jean R. and Bruce Anderson, will be on loan from the YAM's community collection.

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