

First in series of water-themed art installations opens in Bozeman June 16

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BOZEMAN - On Friday, June 16, Mountain Time Arts kicks off a summer-long public art initiative with the opening of "Upstream," the first in a series of innovative group exhibitions and interpretive events collectively entitled "WaterWorks" that reflect upon the beauty and science, history and future of the rivers, streams and watersheds of Gallatin Valley.

Running through June 30, "Upstream" features the work of 13 regional artists who, after collaborating with area water conservationists and scientists, have created storefront window exhibits and interactive installations on Main Street that uniquely respond to the themes of spring runoff, Bozeman Creek and municipal water usage within the city.

In addition to 10 storefront window installations on Main Street between Rouse and Willson avenues, Bozeman artist Dalton Rank will project a video installation onto the east side of the Lark Hotel at 10 p.m. on six evenings throughout "Upstream's" two-week run. Rank's video "What We Remain" is a visual juxtaposition of the various phases and forms of water with those of human life, highlighting the essential role of water to our existence.

Michael and Caroline Running Wolf, a team of artist-software developers, have created seven augmented reality installations on the sidewalks of Main Street that provide literal insight into municipal water pathways and the challenges to the city's water supply and treatment due to drought and population growth.

For example, "Bozeman Creek @ Bar IX" employs the sidewalk mosaic in front of the business as a trigger for an associated augmented reality mobile app. After downloading the app, users can hover their smart device over the sidewalk mosaic and, as if the device has X-ray vision, see Bozeman Creek flowing beneath Main Street.

"Besides the 'wow' factor, you'll also learn something about how water works in the city of Bozeman," said Mountain Time Arts Producer Dede Taylor. "And that's what 'Upstream' is all about—revealing the creek and where our water comes from, where it goes, and how we capture, deliver and treat it in municipal systems."

Daily tours of Bozeman Creek that provide insight into the history and hydrology of the creek will also be offered.

Coinciding with the completion of the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Project at Bogert Park, "Upstream" will also include two creek-side aerial dance performances in the park pavilion by San Francisco-based Zaccho Dance Theatre on June 23 and 24.



"Spring," one part of Wendy Red Star's series, "Four Seasons," will be on display in the window storefront of Heyday on Main Street as part of "Upstream," a public art initiative combining storefront art exhibitions and interpretive events in downtown Bozeman June 16-30. PHOTO BY WENDY RED STAR

After "Upstream," the series moves outward from its urban focus for "Wetlands," a multiscreen video and sound installation by Bently Spang at Manhattan's Dry Creek Schoolhouse from July 21-30. The series will close with "Gabriel Canal," a performance piece by Mary Ellen Strom and composer Greg Young staged on a historic homestead on the West Gallatin River from August 23-25. Related tours will accompany both projects.

"WaterWorks" was funded by a \$350,000 grant from the ArtPlace America Creative Placemaking Fund. It was one of 29 projects funded nationwide out of nearly 1,400 applicants.

"The concept of running out of water is kind of inconceivable to humans, but we may really struggle with finding solutions," Taylor said, noting Gallatin Valley's steep anticipated population growth in coming decades. "We have all of the facts and data and arguments, but we believe art is the thing that can stir people's imaginations and emotions and add that element that will make them care—not only open their minds to the reality of it, but offer a more creative approach to how to deal with it."

An opening celebration for "Upstream" takes place from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 16, at Soroptimist Park on the corner of Main Street and Rouse Avenue in downtown Bozeman from 6-8 p.m. Visit mountaintimearts.org for a full schedule of events and to sign up for associated tours.

Red Lodge Songwriter Festival Bringing Nashville to Montana

EBS STAFF

The second annual Red Lodge Songwriter Festival—which brings together professional Nashville songwriters and top regional musicians for a weekend of workshops, performances and collaborative jam sessions—runs Thursday, June 22, through Saturday, June 24, in various venues across the community of Red Lodge, Montana.

The lineup of participating Nashville hit songwriters is headlined by Even Stevens and Hugh Prestwood, both inductees of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. James Dean Hicks, Tony Lane and Montana's own Kostas return to the Red Lodge Songwriter Festival, joined by newcomer Brice Long.

These songwriters will perform their hit songs and share the stories behind songs that have been recorded by chart-topping country artists such as George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, Conway Twitty, Dwight Yoakam, the Dixie Chicks, Kenny Chesney, Blake Shelton, Patti Loveless, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, and many more.

The Nashville songwriters, along with nine of Montana and Wyoming's most-seasoned songwriters—Sean Devine, Tom Catmull, Al Cooper, Cory Johnson,

Annalisa Rose, Matt Strachan, Kalyn Beasley, Chuck Oliver and Charlie Brandine—will perform a total of 11 shows in seven local venues over three days, with most of the shows free and open to the public.

Aspiring songwriters are invited to attend workshops and participate in the songwriting contest. A total of ten songwriters will be selected to perform their song in front of one or more of the Nashville songwriters and receive analysis and feedback on their work. The writers of the top two best-written songs will have the opportunity to perform on the main stage Saturday night during the Nashville Songwriters in the Round show.

"If you're a songwriter, you get to network with other songwriters and learn from those that have successfully made their living writing songs for some of the biggest names in country music," said festival founder Mike Booth. But one needn't be a songwriter to enjoy the festival. "You may love Faith Hill and Tim McGraw's recording of 'I Need You,'" Booth added. "But when you hear Tony Lane tell the story behind the song and listen to him perform it, you make a connection with that song that is indescribable."

For tickets and a full schedule of events visit redlodesongwriterfest.com.