



Press Release

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What: The exhibition Weaving Memory: Monotypes by Melanie Yazzie opens at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

When: May 29, 2009 - May 30, 2010

Where: University of Colorado Museum of Natural History , Second Floor Gallery

Cost: Admission is free but donations are welcomed

Contact information for publication: University of Colorado Museum of Natural History at 303-492-6892 or visit <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>

Weaving Memory: Monotypes by Melanie Yazzie opens at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

Weaving Memory: Monotypes by Melanie Yazzie is an exhibition of prints inspired by the textiles from the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History's collection and by memories from artist Melanie Yazzie's childhood. The prints reflect recollections of time spent with her grandmother, Thelma Baldwin, when Yazzie helped to sort yarn with her feet and hands while her grandmother was weaving or wandered around her grandmother's house and cornfield in Wide Ruins, Arizona.

Baldwin wove in the Wide Ruins style, which is soft and quiet compared with the monotypes that Yazzie produces today. The prints in this exhibition are loud with color, with bright, geometrical forms against a soft background of color or clear white. They speak of quiet moments between a grandmother and granddaughter that are often not documented in Yazzie's work. The pictorial rugs in the CU Museum's collection feed Yazzie's creative process, as reflected in the stencils she cuts for her monotypes. Brightly colored images inspired by the textiles are repeated throughout the prints in this exhibition.

Weaving Memory is presented in conjunction with Navajo Weaving: Diamonds, Dreams, Landscapes, a major exhibition of Navajo textiles from the CU Museum's Joe Ben Wheat Southwestern Textile Collection, considered to be one of the world's best. The opening event for both exhibitions will be on Friday, May 29, 2009, starting at 6:00 PM at the Museum. The artist will be present at the event, which will include a special talk by Dr. Ann Hedlund, director of the The Gloria F. Ross Center for Tapestry Studies, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona. On Friday, October 2, 2009, Yazzie herself will speak on "Images from My American Indian Experience." Her talk will coincide with the opening of the second installation of the Navajo Weaving exhibition. Both events are free and open to the public.

Weaving Memory will be on display on the second floor of the CU Museum of Natural History, which is located in the Henderson Building on the University of Colorado Boulder campus between 15th and 16th Streets, just east of Broadway. Museum hours are Monday–Friday 9–5, Saturday 9–4, and Sunday 10–4. Admission to the Museum is free, but donations are welcomed. For more information, contact 303-492-6892 or visit <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>.

About the artist: Melanie Yazzie is Associate Professor of Art at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Her works have been featured in many collections, including the Anchorage Museum of History & Art, the Art Museum of Missoula, the Australian National Gallery, the Institute of American Indian Arts, the Kennedy Museum of Art, the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and many more. She has exhibited nationally and internationally in places such as Alaska, California, New Mexico, New York, Florida, New Zealand, France, Russia, Canada, Estonia, Northern Ireland, Korea, China, and South Africa, and she plans to continue to show her work throughout the world.