

MSU Billings opens new star-themed show

Jaci Webb ([https://billingsgazette-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/Jaci Webb](https://billingsgazette-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/Jaci%20Webb)) Oct 21, 2015



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Drawing her inspiration from features in the night sky, Great Falls' Whitney Polich blurs boundaries between physical and re

“Re-Mapping the Stars,” a group of mixed-media interactive installations, photographs, videos, and drawings by Great Falls-based artist Whitney Polich, opens Oct. 29 with a public reception at Montana State University Billings.

Collectively, these artworks transform the Northcutt Steele Gallery into an environment intended to restore a childlike curiosity about how we construct our sense of place on the micro and macro levels.

Utilizing references to stars, galaxies, and constellations, and engaging multiple senses, Polich's artwork blurs the boundaries between physical and representational space to provoke a personal, poetic engagement with the worlds around us.

Polich's artwork is informed by her interest in myth, her farming ancestry, and her experiences growing up in the vast Montana landscape. She received her fine arts master's degree in studio art from Washington University, St. Louis, in 2014, her bachelor's degree in ceramics from the University of Montana, and has also taught second grade in New Mexico on the Navajo Reservation.

Her work is exhibited nationally, most recently at Mildred Lane Contemporary Art Museum, and New York Center for Photographic Arts, and it is included in the permanent collection of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the artist is extending an invitation for audience participation. Individuals interested in writing their own imaginary myths for Polich's "star maps," fictional constellation drawings made from rocks on paper, can follow directions and submit responses on her website at whitneypolich.com (<http://whitneypolich.com>).

A catered reception will be held on Thursday, Oct. 29 beginning at 5 p.m. in the first floor lobby of the Liberal Arts Building at MSUB. The reception and the exhibitions are free and open to the public.

The Northcutt Steele Gallery is on the first floor of the Liberal Arts Building on the MSUB campus.

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