

Contact: Elizabeth M. Guheen
Director and Chief Curator, Charles M. Bair Family Museum
406-572-3314 info@bairfamilymuseum.org
Immediate Release: May 20, 2014

Edith Freeman - "Montana Seasons" at the Bair Museum Opens May 26, 2014



This summer the Bair Museum will host a special exhibition of work by Montana artist Edith Freeman (1912-1992). The work is on loan from the Yellowstone Art Museum to which Freeman bequeathed many of her woodblock prints, as well as her woodcuts and tools. The exhibit will also feature a set of her working tools and a woodblock the public is allowed to touch, an experience that allows them to fully appreciate her artistry. In the 1950s Freeman developed her own technique for printing multiple colors with a single block. The results are lush and serene prints that capture central Montana in all its varied seasons.

Freeman drew her inspiration from the undeveloped areas around Billings, from the sandstone Rimrocks to the slopes covered with Yucca and Sage and Ponderosa Pines. She also loved wildflower meadows and drew inspiration as well from her own garden of irises and poppies and zinnias.

Edith Freeman was born on her grandparent's ranch near Broadview in 1913 and later moved to Billings with her family where she attended school. She went on to receive a BA and MS from then Eastern Montana College. She taught in Fergus County and in Billings at North Park, Garfield and Broadwater schools. After retiring from teaching Freeman began her second career as a printmaker. Her work was exhibited throughout the United States and is on several Montana museum collections. In 1993 Edith Freeman was posthumously awarded the Montana Governors Award for the Arts.

The Bair Museum's permanent collection features work by Charles Russell, Joseph Henry Sharp, Edward S. Curtis and Edouard Cortes as well as several other American and European painters. Tours of the family's historic antique-filled home are offered throughout the day, with the last tour departing at 4 p.m. The family's Native American beadwork collection features a touchscreen that guides visitors through the history of each object. The Bair Museum has it all!

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 26, 2014, the museum will be open seven days a week through Labor Day. The Bair Family Museum is located at 2751 Montana Hwy 294 in Martinsdale, Montana, between White Sulphur Springs and Harlowton. For more information visit www.bairfamilymuseum.org

Image caption: Edith Freeman, *Late Summer Sagebrush*, 1978, woodblock print 10.24, 29 x 37⁵/₈ inches, Collection Yellowstone Art Museum, 1989.007