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## SOCIETY EXHIBITS GRAND OPENING OF QUILTS AND INDIAN PORTRAITS

The artistry of quilts and Native American portraits will be a feast for the eyes and hearts at the public grand opening of two new exhibits at the Montana Historical Society Museum Thursday (June 26).

“Traditions in Color and Comfort: Montana’s Quilting Heritage,” and “Sitting Proud: Indian Portraits of Joseph Scheuerle” will be unveiled in a free gala event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Montana’s Museum just east of the State Capitol.

Quilting has enjoyed resurgence in recent years with classes, clubs and other quilting organizations focusing on the love and messages of an important part of Montana and the nation’s history.

The quilts on exhibit are selected from the Society’s permanent collection.

“These wonderful quilts, which encompass the entire range of quilting craft, technique and design, were made by women of diverse cultural and regional backgrounds representative of Montana’s history,” Society Curator of Collections Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney said.

Each quilt carries a unique story about the lives of the people who made them and used them, she said.

The Native American portraits exhibit features the work of Scheuerle who first came to Montana in 1909 to create promotional art for the Great Northern Railroad. He became a good friend of Montana artist Charlie Russell, and painted more than 200 Indian portraits over the years.

Although his fellow artists including Russell admired Scheuerle's artistic skills, he never received widespread public recognition for his work.

"In spite of the lack of recognition, today our knowledge of Plains Indian life is greatly enhanced by Scheuerle's exceptional art," Bottomly-O'looney said.

Entertainment by Helena Handbasket and free refreshments will be provided during the evening.

The grand opening will be followed on Friday (June 27) at 7 p.m. by a keynote lecture on quilts by University of Rochester Professor Janet Berlo, author of "Wild by Design: Two Hundred Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts," at a free program at the museum.