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Photo caption: “All Time” by Rocky Mountain College photography instructor Dave Shumway. Shumway said, "While leading a group of RMC students on a safari in Tanzania, I photographed a group of Hadzabe telling stories and smoking around a small fire, atop a large boulder (for protection from elephants) under the Milky Way. The Hadza people have been living as nomadic hunter-gatherers in north central Tanzania for over 4,000 years."

Profs share élan in diverse media for spring RMC faculty art show

BILLINGS, Feb. 25, 2014 – The Spring Faculty Art Show will sprout in the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery on the campus of Rocky Mountain College from March 13 to April 4, 2014.

The faculty members of the Art Department including Jim Baken, Mark Moak, Rhett Moak, and Dave Shumway will be showing new work including mixed media, metalsmithing, clay works, and photography.

Baken offers four mixed media works. He said, “These four paintings are musings and gestures in the face of world politics and artistic influences. The Anselm Kiefer-inspired surfaces and lack of color hint at dark themes with conceptual sacrifice.”

“Much of my work is in the area of arte povera… Italian for impoverished art [poor art or poor art materials],” he said. The modernist arte povera movement, originating in the 1960s, recognized art in the lack of prescribed definitions in everyday existence and behavior. Philosophy that underlies arte povera finds dynamic meaning in life and nature by disdaining symbols and corporate definitions.

Photographer Shumway said, “My photographic aesthetic is the ‘Wilderness Sublime.’” He explained, “My belief is that the principles of the sublime landscape can encompass all things grand or minuscule in the wilderness of our fragile planet. By capturing traditional, non-manipulated images of the wild, and at the same time looking for the ‘straight beauty’ that can be found by ‘creative capture,’ I am able to push myself into new realms of photography.”

Shumway will likely offer 20x30 prints to metal. He said, “Printing to a harsh, modern surface speaks to the struggle of wild, ‘unchanged’ places with the march of ‘progress.’”
The exhibit will be open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through April 4. Gallery director Sally McIntosh cordially invites the public to the opening reception Thursday, March 13, in Technology Hall from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

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