RMC PROFESSOR EXHIBITS NEW WORK SEPTEMBER IN RED LODGE

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Attached: Images of paintings (l) Be Elk, (r) Green Elk. Original paintings 60” X 96”
Photo: James Baken

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – James Baken, an artist and professor who spent his formative years in Red Lodge and now teaches at Rocky Mountain College, will exhibit his newest work during the month of September at the Carbon County Arts Guild.

There will be a public reception Saturday, Sept. 7, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Baken prides himself on growing up in the shadow of the Beartooth Mountains where he has hiked, camped, fished, hunted, and explored. His family once lived next door to the “See’em Alive Zoo” where he acquired a sympathy for the plight of victimized animals everywhere. He developed an aesthetic inculcating wilderness and wildlife that has featured in his art his entire life.

When his family moved to Absarokee, he graduated from school and joined the Navy where he was a hospital corpsman during the Vietnam War. University studies in the fine arts, English, education and employment in a mine, wood beam manufacturing plant and psychiatric center helped form a James Baken who builds and paints eclectic works of art. He uses raw objects from the mountains, sometimes incorporating antique replicas of European Masters, a direct result of living a primal existence on the land and maintaining a passion for art history.

He and his family live in the Bitterroot National Forest each summer where he produces works of art while his wife spots and reports forest fires. He frequently guides students on art study trips in Europe. He has been teaching at Rocky since Fall of 1990.

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