Maryhill Museum to host hologram artist's exhibit

GOLDENDALE, Wash. — Sharon McCormack, widely recognized as one of the nation's top hologram artists, moved to the Columbia River Gorge from California in 1991.

In what is being called a "spectacular" new show opening Saturday, Aug. 20, at Maryhill Museum of Art, McCormack uses her talents in this most modern of photographic techniques to depict and document the ancient traditional heritage of her new home.

Traveling to the nearby Warm Springs Indian Reservation, McCormack photographed members of the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Yakama tribes — descendants of the original residents of the Columbia River Gorge. The people dressed in their traditional garb and explained the significance of what they wore.

For what is believed to be the first time ever, the countenances and traditional apparel of an indigenous people will be displayed in the uniquely modern art form of holography.

Created using laser light and an optical printer of her own design, the completed holograms appear three-dimensional — the subject "moves." McCormack has created holograms of a galaxy of the famous, including basketball star Michael Jordan, baseball players Nolan Ryan and Cal Ripken, and the singer (formerly known as Prince).

She explains that she chose to focus her camera on the native peoples of the Gorge for a variety of reasons. "I felt they should be recognized in the contemporary sense," she says. "And, since I spend a lot of time outdoors, I found the Indian spiritual philosophy easy to relate to. I really admire their culture."

Sharon McCormack's hologram show will be on display at the Maryhill Museum of Art, through Sept. 15. The museum is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 509-733-3733.

Hologram exhibit set at Maryhill

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