

**Amanda Breitbach**

**Roosts April 27 – June 26, 2009**

**Friday, May 1 6:00 – 8:00PM Artist Reception with an artist talk at 6:30PM**

**Dawson Community College Art Gallery 126 Glendive, Montana**



Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be an artist reception for Amanda Breitbach in the Dawson Community College Art Gallery 126 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM with an artist talk at 6:30. This gathering is free and open to the public. Please join us for a viewing of Amanda's photographs, for conversation, and refreshments. If you can't make it on Friday, Gallery 126 is open Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, & Tuesday-Thursday 6:30 – 9:00 PM and Summer hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Amanda's new series *Roosts* is on exhibit from April 27 – June 26. For more info: <http://www.dawson.edu/>

Amanda's new series *Roosts*, as she describes it, is about slowing down and taking the opportunity to enjoy the spaces in between. For Amanda, the *Roosts* series began to unfold with a vision of taking photographs of chairs in settings that look like good places to sit. "Not to nap or to do anything else in particular, but to empty your mind and breathe in. Look around you – carefully enough to see something. Notice things. Pay attention. Appreciate whatever there is." As the series progressed Amanda developed a discerning eye for discovering irresistible chairs in all kinds of interesting places.

Amanda was inspired by her life experience to share this series of peaceful moments. She says, "Slowly and reluctantly throughout my life, I have learned the virtues of sitting still. Watching the world go by is a wonderful pastime. People, dogs, trees, clouds are endlessly interesting. I hope viewers can put themselves into these spaces and relax. Better yet, I hope these images remind them to stop for a moment in life, to truly see and appreciate their surroundings."

Among her many endeavors, Amanda Breitbach brings her talents to the Glendive Ranger Review as a photographer and managing editor. As part of its staff, she helps our community stay in-touch and keeps a record of our local history. Her wonderful photographs grace the pages of every RR and bring the stories of our community to life.

Amanda Breitbach was born in Circle, Montana and raised on a family farm and ranch north of town. She has an intimate appreciation for the personality of eastern Montana and it shows in her photographs. After graduating from Circle High School, she went to Montana State University in Bozeman. There she studied photography and French, finishing with dual bachelor's degrees in 2004. Amanda then joined the Peace Corps and served in Guinea, West Africa for two years as an agro-forestry volunteer. She returned to eastern Montana after completing her service in 2007.

Inspired by the sun and sky, the people she meets, and a good sense of humor, Amanda enjoys photographing nearly everything. Most recently, two of her photographs were chosen for the Custer County Art and Heritage Center's 30th annual Southeastern Montana Juried Exhibit, "Works on Paper." One piece was, also chosen for the 2009 traveling collection, which makes stops in galleries all over eastern Montana, including Glendive. Her work has, also been shown in juried expositions at the Helen E. Copeland Gallery, the Cheever Hall Lower Gallery, and the Weaver Room at the Emerson Cultural Center, as well as, in a solo exhibit at the Lightwriter Gallery in Bozeman, and her work was chosen Best in Show at the Naked Negative exhibition in 2003. Amanda exhibits locally at the DCAU Gallery, where she was the featured artist last spring.

Amanda has a lot to contribute and she keeps herself busy pursuing her varied interests. She not only continues to make use of her photography degree; she also keeps her French language skills alive in weekly conversations with friends. An amateur runner, she is helping organize the Terry Badlands Trail Run, coming up this summer on June 27. She enjoys being involved in the Glendive Community Garden and is taking classes to develop her skills in ceramics with Kevin Layton at the Custer County Art and Heritage Center of Miles City. She is also preparing to take the next big leap in her life, by taking vows this fall with Ryan Ragsdale in Makoshika State Park.