

MONTANA METH PROJECT

Pearl Jam Bassist Jeff Ament to Judge Paint the State Art Contest

Montana Native to Join Distinguished Panel That Includes Monte Dolack and Darrell G. Beauchamp

MISSOULA, Mont.—May 10, 2010—Montana native Jeff Ament, bass player for Pearl Jam, has joined a distinguished panel of judges that will choose the winner of the Montana Meth Project's 2010 Paint the State art contest.

Born in Havre, Montana, Ament grew up in Big Sandy, where his father was mayor for 15 years. He attended the University of Montana, where he studied art and played basketball, before leaving to pursue his musical career. Along with Stone Gossard, Mike McCready, and Eddie Vedder, Ament is one of the founding members of Pearl Jam, which also includes drummer Matt Cameron. In 2008, Ament released his first solo album, *Tone*.

Ament joins a panel of Paint the State judges that includes Montana artist and gallery owner Monte Dolack, and Darrell G. Beauchamp, Ed.D., chief executive officer of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana. Dolack's work is included in the collections of the Library of Congress, the National Wildfire Foundation, and numerous other museums and corporations. The three-judge panel will select the contest's statewide winner. Commissioners from each of Montana's 56 counties will select the winners for their respective counties.

Organized by the Montana Meth Project, Paint the State is a statewide public art contest that leverages the creativity and passion of Montana's youth to get the word out about the risks of methamphetamine use. This year's contest follows on the success of Paint the State 2006, which prompted thousands of Montana's teens to create more than 660 works of monumental-scale art with a strong anti-Meth message. The first-ever project of its kind, Paint the State became the largest public art contest in history.

The deadline to register for this year's contest is midnight Montana time on **June 30, 2010**. After registering, contestants must design and create their public art piece so that it can be displayed from **July 19 through at least July 23, 2010**, for judging. Final submissions, including photos of completed artwork, a written description, and location details, must be uploaded by midnight, **July 18, 2010, MDT**, in order to meet the judging deadline. First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each county, as well as one statewide winner. Winners will be announced in Helena on August 20, 2010. The prize for the statewide winner is \$5,000. Prizes will also be awarded in each of Montana's 56 counties, with \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, \$500 for third place. To learn more about the contest visit, www.PaintTheStateMontana.org

About the Montana Meth Project

Launched in September 2005, the Montana Meth Project, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana, implements a range of advertising and community action programs aimed at reducing methamphetamine use in the state. Combining extensive research with a hard-hitting, integrated media campaign, it has been repeatedly cited as an effective response to a devastating social problem. For more information, visit www.montanameth.org.

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