

Copyist Program Schedule for 2026



September 21, 2026, Monday

The Bair Museum
5721 Mt Hwy 294
Martinsdale, MT
10am - 4pm

This state-of-the-art museum features five galleries, housing Western paintings by Russell, Sharp, Curtis, etc; Native American collections and diverse collections of modern European and American paintings. The beautiful grounds are the former Bair Ranch, on the Upper Musselshell River, north of the Crazy Mountains.

There will be a docent talk about 3 or 4 paintings.



October 10, 2026, Saturday

Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Cody, WY
10am - 5 pm, \$16.00 fee

All paintings in the Whitney Gallery. BBCW has one of the finest collections of historical and contemporary Western Art.



October 17, 2026, Saturday

Billings Library
10am - 2 pm

Three paintings including G. Catlin's *Indian Snow Shoe Dance* and selected Western paintings through the generosity of D. Hummel, noted Billings collector. Catlin was to Indians what Audubon was to birds.



November 7, 2026, Friday

Yellowstone Art Museum
Billings, MT
10am - 3pm

Selections from the YAM permanent collection, which includes Montana Modernists.

December 11, 2026, Friday

End of Year Copyist Luncheon Celebration
Linda Franson's home
3051 Lloyd Mangrum Lane
Billings, MT
11am - 1:30pm

Bring your best Copyist art piece to share and ideas for future Copyist sites.

BAA Artists meet weekly on Wednesdays at 2:30pm at Poly's Place Coffee to plan plain air events around Billings.



COPYIST

2026

ALL PAINTERS ARE COPYISTS

Copying is a learning experience firmly established in the art world. Vincent Van Gogh, without funds for art school, copied throughout his life ever adding to his skill and brilliance.

Copying is stimulating and enlarges our art knowledge. It is about **trying out new ideas**. Close and slow copying teaches us different brush work, modifications of shape and form, new color combinations, and other ways of seeing. It is a way to find our voices as painters.

We are lucky to have many master painters in Montana. Renowned artists whose works grace our museums, homes, churches, and public spaces. It is through the generosity and partnership of these art venues that the Copyist Program exists.

Please come and join us. We encourage others to participate in the art-making process, to watch, to take up pencil and paper and to carefully look.

The Billings Arts Association will email monthly information about Copyist events. Please register for each event by email to linda.hewett@gmail.com.

- Most events are enhanced by professional presentations about the artists, their work and backgrounds.
- Copyists may not sell their copy as their own work. Art work is protected by copyright laws until it enters the "public domain."
- There is no participation fee, unless noted.
- Painters should bring all their own equipment, including tarps to protect flooring.
- A clip-on cordless easel light is recommended.
- Disposal of paint solvents or dirty water must be done outside the buildings.



Copyist Program Schedule for 2026



January 23, 2026, Friday
Rocky Mountain College, Ryniker Gallery
Billings, MT
1 pm - 4pm

Selected works of Eric Jensen, contemporary landscape artist, and choice of six paintings by RMC teachers and students.



February 28, 2026, Saturday
First Congregational Church
310 N. 27th St.
Billings, MT
10am - 3pm

Choice of abstracted weavings, etched glass pastoral scenes, 1942 J. K. Ralston oil painting and stained glass, Bill Stockton iron sculpture and Chatham print.



March 13, 2026, Friday
Western Heritage Center
Billings, MT
10am - 5pm

Works by J.K.Ralston (*Green Wagon*); Ben Steele (*Golden Deer* and POW paintings); LeRoy Green (*Winter Landscape*); Leland Stewart, native artist (*Small Works*), plus *anything* hanging in the WHC.



April 17, 2026, Friday
Billings Public Library
Billings, MT
11am - 2pm

A much loved 1995 oil painting of mother and children "*Arts and Literature*" by Loren Entz, a Billings artist. This painting is a staple of the library. Consider copying a section of this large figurative painting.



May 23, 2026, Saturday
Tippet Rise Art Center
Fishtail, MT
8:30am - 5pm
Choice of outdoor art sculptures/installations. Shuttles will be available to ride to art installations.



June 13, 2026, Saturday
June 14, 2026 Sunday
The Brinton Art Museum
Sheridan, WY
10am - 4pm; 10am - Docent talk about Indian artifacts.

The Brinton Museum is on the grounds of a cattle ranch established in 1892. B. Brinton, a Chicago industrialist, had a passion for collecting renowned Western art. The museum now includes American Indian art. The extensive ranch grounds with vistas of the Big Horns are open for painting. Only pencil/charcoal inside; all mediums outside.



July 10, 2026, Friday
KOA Headquarters
1205 N. Transtech Way
Billings, MT
10am - 1 pm

KOA is an award winning building. Its extensive art collection includes masterpieces by modern local artists: Kevin Red Star, Earl Biss, etc.



June 27, 2026, Saturday
July 11, 2026, Saturday
August 21, 2026 Friday
Tippet Rise Art Center
Fishtail, MT 59028
8:30am - 5pm

This is a plein air event only. Shuttles will be available to ride to art installations.