

## Art Mobile of Montana's Documentary – Transcribed

Rachel Larson Long, former Teaching Artist for Art Mobile of Montana: There are schools in our state who don't have any art teachers. That's not surprising when you're talking about a tiny country school. But some of our medium size schools don't really have much art. The purpose of Art Mobile is to serve all the kids in Montana, especially the kids who don't see contemporary art, and that's a lot of our kids. And we aren't even scratching the surface. Art's really important because it's an outlet for people. It's a way to think and talk about what's going on in their life or in society in general as they see it. It is a way to interact with the world. One thing that's lacking in our culture and young people especially is hands-on, for those who don't get in and dig and build things very often. Typical kids are spending a lot of time with screens and buttons and they don't know how to tie a knot in a piece of yarn or to pound a nail or build something. We've got machines but I think we still need the basic interaction with life and ideas and materials. Art in any society is important whether we realize it or not, so I want the people in this state to be educated about something beyond Carlie Russell. There's so much happening since Charlie Russell that people don't really know about and they don't really understand or appreciate. That's the really great thing about Art Mobile, you don't just see something but you really find out about it. And I'm here to bring the story of the artists to the audience. I often tell an audience after a show: "Tell me your favorite thing, don't just tell me but point." All the arms are going every different direction, every single thing is somebody's favorite.