

## **Lewis and Clark's Monumental Task**

**Builder: Deb Lenzen**

**Place of Origin: North Dakota**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

This kite is a tribute to the two leaders of the Corps of Discovery, Captain Merriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark who “worked hard to establish good relations between the natives and the young republic they represented,” as described by scholar Gary Moulton.

### **Kite Details**

8" Rokkaku kite style, 3/4 ounce ripstop nylon sewn with an applique technique, framed in fiberglass and carbon.

## **Wild Horses**

**Builder: Susan Lemon**

**Place of Origin: Maryland**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of William Clark  
August 29, 1805:

“our wish is to get a horse for each man to carry our baggage and for some of the men to ride occasionally.”

### **Kite Details**

10' x 3' ripstop nylon Genki-shaped kite painted with permanent markers and alcohol.

## **Crows Stealing the Buffalo Ponies**

**Builder: John Pollock**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of William Clark

July 23, 1806

“those Indian signs is conclusive with me that they have taken the 24 horse which we lost on the night of the 20th.”

Artist John Pollock’s interpretation of the story took some symbolic liberties. The elusive Crow are visualized as the actual birds for which the tribe was named. The ponies are being captured and flown away by those birds. There is a buffalo disguised on one of the poneis to be found by the viewer.

### **Kite Details**

14’ x 4’ modified Edo kite, hand painted and hand silk-screened with faux-horsehair embellishment.

## **Fir Trees set on Fire**

**Builder: Mary Gabby**

**Place of Origin: Colorado**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

June 25, 1806

“Last evening the Indians entertained us with setting the fir trees on fire. They have a great number of dry limbs...which, when set on fire create a very sudden and immense blaze from the top to bottom of those tall trees.”

### **Kite Details**

10’ riptstop nylon Genki

## **Clark and Party on the Yellowstone**

**Builder: Jose Sainz**

**Place of Origin: California**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of William Clark

July 13, 1806

“My party now consists of the following persons, Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor, Joseph Shields, George Shannon, William Bratton, Francois Labiche, Richard Windsor, Hugh Hall, George Gibson, Interpreter Charbonneau, his wife and child and my man York with 49 horses and a colt.”\*

### **Kite Details**

6' with a 30' tail in a circular seven sisters design. Made from ripstop nylon with appliqued scenes.

\*Edited to correct spelling and provide first and last names.

## **The Place Where the Lion Sleeps -**

**Pompey's Pillar**

**Builder: John Burkhardt**

**Place of Origin: Maryland**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of William Clark

July 25, 1806

“I proceeded on after the rain lay a little and at 4 pm arrived at a remarkable rock...this rock I ascended and from its top had a most extensive view in every direction. The natives have engraved on the face of this rock the figures of animals etc. near which I marked my name and the date of the month and year.”

### **Kite Details**

5' x 8' Ripstop nylon applique Edo kite.

## **Undaunted by Hail**

**Builder: Drake Smith**

**Artist: Dawn Sievers**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

Each community that hosts the Visions of Lewis & Clark Kite Collection adds a kite that reflects the local connection to the Expedition. This kite was created by art teacher Dawn Sievers who was selected through a competition in Great Falls.

The antelope commonly hunted by the Corps of Discovery appear unphased by a hail storm described by Merriwether Lewis in his journal:

“the hail was as large as musket balls and covered the ground perfectly. we hand some of it collected which kept very well through the day and served to cool our water.”

### **Kite Details**

Watercolor on silk

## **Montana Body & Blood**

**Builder: Lam Hoac**

**Place of Origin: Vancouver, British Columbia**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

Many mountain ranges, rivers, animals, fish, birds, and more were named during the Expedition. This kite depicts the western landscape where these names are still used more than two centuries later. Communities and people are beginning to recognize Indigenous names for places and living things as well. For example, Travelers' Rest State Park stands in place named Tmsmli or “no salmon” by the Selis people.

### **Kite Details**

Ripstop nylon with applique

## **Pablo the Bear**

**Builder: Adrianne Balmer**

**Place of Origin: Virginia**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

May 6, 1805

“I find the curiosity of our party is pretty well satisfied with respect to this animal...the formidable appearance of the male bear killed on the 5th...plus the difficulties with which they die...have staggered the resolution of several of them.”

“Captain Clark and Drouillard killed the largest brown bear this evening which we have yet seen...a most tremendous looking animal...he measured 8' 7" from nose to hindfoot.”

### **Kite Details:**

17' 4" two-line hand-painted ripstop nylon figure kite.

## **Sacajawea**

**Builder: Charlie Dunton**

**Place of Origin: Virginia**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

William Clark speech to Charbonneau on August 20, 1806

‘Your woman, who accompanied you that long and fatiguing route to the Pacific Ocean and back, deserved a greater reward for her attention and services on that route than we had in our power to give her.’

### **Kite Details**

8' ripstop nylon appliqued Rokkaku kite.

## **Fish of the Rochejaune (Yellowstone)**

**Builder: Ron Gibian**

**Place of Origin: California**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of William Clark

July 19, 1806

“I determined to have two canoes made out of the largest of those trees, and lash them together which will cause them to be sturdy and fully sufficient to take my small party and self with what little baggage we have down this river.”

### **Kite Details:**

2' x' 8' low aspect, bowed ripstop nylon appliqued kite. This kite is a newly invented style for this exhibition.

## **Rose Tree**

**Builder: Steve Ferrell**

**Place of Origin: Pennsylvania**

**On display at Mansfield Library, U of MT**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

April 28, 1806

“A little before sunset the fiddle was played and the amused themselves with dancing about an hour. We then requested the Indians to dance which they very cheerfully complied with; they continued their dance until 10 at night. The whole assemblage of Indians about 550 men, women, and children sung and danced at the same time.”

### **Kite Details:**

3' x 5' with 40' tail Edo kite. Ripstop nylon applique della porta with appliqued nylon tail.

**Musquito Torment and  
Captain Lewis' Dog Seaman  
Builder: Sharon Musto  
Place of Origin: Winnipeg, Manitoba  
On display at Missoula Butterfly House**

**Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis  
September 11, 1803

“My dog was of the Newfoundland breed,  
very active, strong and docile.”

July 15, 1806

“The mosquitoes continue to infest us in  
such a manner that we can scarcely exist...  
My dog even howls with the torture he  
experiences from them.”

**Kite Details**

The mosquito kite form was invented for this exhibition. It evolved from a double-hexagonal noodle prototype. The black lines are all individual spars, suggesting the joined legs commonly found in insects. When the kite is in the air, its wings flap not unlike mosquito wings.

## **Dragonfly**

**Builder: Commercially made**

**Donated by Harold Ames**

**On display at Missoula Butterfly House**

A beautifully colored commercial kite made in China.

### **Kite Details**

6' Rokkaku kite

## **Butterfly**

**Builder: Betty Street**

**Place of Origin: Texas**

**On display at Missoula Butterfly House**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis  
May 30, 1806

“Most of the insects common to the United States are found here. (near the Snake River in Idaho) The butterflies, common house and blowing flies, the horse flies, except the gold colored ear fly, tho' in stead of this fly we have a brown colored fly about the same size which attaches itself to that part of the horse and is equally as troublesome. The silkworm is also found here. A great variety of beetles common to the Atlantic states are found here likewise.”

### **Kite Details**

Betty Street's intricately pieced butterfly rokkaku is a unique interpretation of the subject, finished and brought to the exhibit by artist, Jose Sainz.

## **Meadowlark and Prickly Pear**

**Builder: Scott R. Skinner**

**Place of Origin: Colorado**

**On display at FWP Region 2 Headquarters**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

June 22, 1805

“The prickly pears were extremely troublesome to us, sticking our feet through our moccasins...There is a kind of lark here with a yellow breast and a black spot on the croup...the form of the tail which pointed begin feathers of uneven length.”

### **Kite Details**

Meadowlark: 2'x3' sode style kite

Prickly Pear; various size kaku dako style.

## **Flock of Crows**

**Builder: Adam Grow**

**Place of Origin: Pennsylvania**

**On display at FWP Region 2 Headquarters**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

April 4, 1806

“We saw the marten, geese, the small, speckled woodpecker with a white back, the Blue crested corvus, ravens, crows, eagles, vultures, and hawks.”

### **Kite Details**

42" wingspan nylon and bamboo

## **Snake Dance**

**Builder: Tim Denton**

**Place of Origin: Colorado**

**Inspiration:**

**On display at FWP Region 2 Headquarters**

From the journals of William Clark

June, 15, 1805

“added to those difficulties the rattle snakes innumerable and require great caution to prevent being bitten”

## **Kite Details**

8' ripstop nylon appliqued Delta kite with hand-painted snakes

## **Buffalo Herds**

**Builder: Drake Smith**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**Inspiration:**

**On display at FWP Region 2 Headquarters**

Bison covered the plains at the time of the Expedition. They were hunted by many Native American nations for food, clothing, shelter, and tools. The Corps of Discovery also depended on the bison during their journey.

## **Kite Details**

5' x 4' ripstop nylon applique in a modified Ghenki style.

## **Montana Prairie, Coyotes & Prairie Dogs**

**Builder: Betty Street**

**Place of Origin: Texas**

**On display at FWP Region 2 Headquarters**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis

May 5, 1805

“The country is as yesterday beautiful in the extreme...the small wolf or burrowing dog are very active, fleet and frequently bark...of a pale reddish brown color, the eye a deep sea green...”

September 11, 1804

“Today we saw hundreds of small, barking squirrels, very social animals that warn each other of our presence.”

### **Kite Details**

8' patchwork nylon Rokkaku kite with quilting technique.

## **Nine Feathers**

**Builder: Eric and Ann Sloboda**

**Place of Origin: Ontario, Canada**

**On display at Missoula Public Library**

### **Inspiration:**

At tribute to four Nimiipuu or Nez Perce chiefs, represented by the four eagle feathers on the main quadrants, who continually helped the Corps by feeding them and supplying them horses and materials, and five young men who acted as guides, represented by the five hawk feathers that hang from the points of the kite. The Corps needed help to get over the Bitterroot Mountains in 1806.

### **Kite Details**

8' Rokkaku kite—silkscreened onto ripstop nylon with five handmade nylon feathers.

## **In Honor of the Women**

**Artist: Dominique Norman (Metis)**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Missoula Public Library**

### **Inspiration:**

To honor the missing and murdered Indigenous women all across North America

### **Kite Details**

7' x 3' Edo kite with applique on ripstop nylon

## **Captain Lewis' Brand**

**Builder: Drake Smith**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Missoula Public Library**

### **Inspiration:**

Captain Lewis used this branding iron along the trail to mark wooden packing crates, barrels, and even trees. He probably traded the iron to someone in the spring of 1806 near present-day The Dalles. In the 1890s, Hood River resident Linnaeus Winans found the iron on the north shore of the Columbia River. He gave the artifact to Philip L. Jackson, publisher of the *Oregon Journal*, who donated it to the Oregon Historical Society in 1941.

The kite also include an image of the reverse of the Jefferson peace medal.

### **Kite Details**

4' x 3' ripstop nylon made in a unique shape.

## **The Great Meeting**

**Builder: Steve Drake**

**Artist: Derek "No Sun" Brown**

**Place of Origin: Idaho**

**On display at Missoula Public Library**

### **Inspiration:**

Commemorating the first evening meeting of the Shoshone people with the members of the Corps.

From the artist, "The scene I depicted is meant to capture multiple events – when Sacajawea meets her long lost brother and when he gives Lewis and Clark a tipi to sleep in for the night. In the tipi are Sacajawea, baby, Lewis, Clark, the dog, and two tribal members all sitting and talking by the warm fire. The river and agai dika (salmon shaped silver strokes) are more representations. "

### **Kite Details:**

8' x 5' Edo kite

## **Native Angels**

**Builder: JoAnne Weber**

**Place of Origin: Minnesota**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

This is a tribute kite to the Native American women who assisted the Corps of Discovery in many ways. The top panel are Mandan huts – where women provided the members with food and shelter during the harsh winter of 1805. The second panel represents mountains and horses, and the bottom panel represents the Nez Perce woman Watkuweis who chastised young warriors who wished to do harm to the Corps when they were weakened by the brutal crossing over the Bitterroot Mountains.

### **Kite Details:**

3' x 12' low aspect bowed ripstop with applique kite work.

## **Sacajawea and the Great Blue Whale**

**Builder: Kathy Goodwind**

**Place of Origin: Washington**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

From the journals of Merriwether Lewis – January 6, 1806

“she observed that she had traveled a long way with us to see the great waters, and that now that monstrous fish was also to be seen...”

The tail and front fins of the great blue whale sneak outside the circle to indicate the freedom and movement the spirit whale seeks.

### **Kite Details:**

Applique inspired by Japanese painting styles.

## **Tribute to Jefferson**

**Builder: Harold Ames**

**Place of Origin: Virginia**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

The likeness of Thomas Jefferson, who was responsible for commissioning the entire expedition, is from the \$2.00 bill. Kite builder, Harold Ames, enlarged an image of the bill and copied the Thomas Jefferson picture for this kite.

### **Kite Details:**

11' x 8' Japanese Shirone style with washi paper skin and bamboo frame to the modern materials of ripstop nylon skin and carbon.

## **Roster of the Corps**

**Builder: Sam Huston**

**Place of Origin: Washington**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

Tribute kite to the members of the Corps of Discovery who left Fort Mandan for the Pacific, including the baby Jean-Baptiste and the Newfoundland dog, Seaman.

### **Kite Details:**

40' x 17' ripstop nylon with applique letters.

## **Spirit of the Horses**

**Builder: Steve Ferrell**

**Painter: Terry Zee Lee**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

The Snake Indians' gift of the horses to the Corps of Discovery was key to the success of the journey. Terry Zee Lee painted the horses in colors of gold, silver, copper, watercolor, and glitter to enhance the drama of this kite.

### **Kite Details:**

8' ripstop nylon rokakku

## **The Shield**

**Builder: Mike Gee**

**Place of Origin: North Dakota**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

### **Inspiration:**

February 14, 1806 – Map of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition Route. Kite builder, Mike Gee, chose to put an outline of an eye in the center of the kite, encompassing the Louisiana Purchase within the vision. The large eye, a predominant feature, represents a voyage to go see what they could see.

### **Kite Details:**

10' x 8' Rokakku kite with applique ripstop nylon

**Remember the Horses**

**Painter: DG House**

**Place of Origin: Montana**

**On display at Missoula Montana Airport**

**Inspiration:**

Without horses, it is unlikely that the Lewis & Clark Expedition would have reached the Pacific Ocean. Various tribes made gifts of horses or traded with the Corps to provide the animals who would carry equipment and people over the Bitterroot Mountains and through Montana.

**Kite Details:**

10 ' wide and about 5' high ghenki