

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



News Release

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Fairy Falls in Chocolate

Artist: Monica Fogg, President
Washington County Historical Society

Media Advisory: For a digital art image,
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Afton Artist's Unique Chocolate Painting of Historic Fairy Falls Ready for *Minnesota Statehood Celebration* May 10th

“A sweet way to celebrate Minnesota’s 150th birthday.”

Stillwater, Minn. – A one-of-a-kind chocolate creation, celebrating a state landmark, will be won by an admiring chocolate connoisseur at the Washington County Historical Society’s **Minnesota Statehood Celebration**, Saturday May 10, 2008 from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the historic Washington County Courthouse, 101 West Pine Street in Stillwater.

The 18 by 20 inch creation is the work of Afton resident Monica Fogg, an accomplished artist and designer who teaches at the University of Minnesota. Fogg is the new President of the Washington County Historical Society

“I thought I’d embrace a new medium and have fun doing it. I enjoyed the challenge and serendipity this project offered,” Fogg says. “Instead of using oil paint I use cocoa butter. I traded my pigments for food coloring.”

Once the first layer of dark chocolate was poured, it was covered with a thick layer of white chocolate which served as a canvas. Then, working from a 1904 photograph of Fairy Falls, Fogg used cocoa butter to create the image.

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“What's funny is that when I tell people that it's all chocolate and fully edible, they still say something like, ‘Well, not the frame, right?’” Fogg says with a laugh.

The one inch thick work of art is entirely edible, frame and all, Fogg assures us. “And I don’t even want to hazard a guess about the number of calories,” she adds with a laugh.

The chocolate painting will go home with the highest bidder of the silent auction planned for the evening of May 10 at the historic Washington County Courthouse in Stillwater. “I hope the winner will eat it, after enjoying it visually,” Fogg says. “I think it would work well at a celebration, a sesquicentennial party, graduation, an anniversary or birthday, a boat launch, any place with people and laughter. It’s just a sweet way to celebrate our 150th birthday.”

The idea for a chocolate painting came from Fogg’s friend, Dave Lindsey who owns the Afton Bean Coffee Cafe. The creation is on display at the coffee shop until the May 10th silent auction. Proceeds from the Washington County *Minnesota Statehood Celebration* support the nonprofit Washington County Historical Society.

Why Fairy Falls?

Fogg decided to capture the falls in chocolate because its a popular location that offers a strong visual element. “I realized that Fairy Falls is a wonderful and unique spot in Washington County, Minnesota’s first county, so it just seemed appropriate,” Fogg said.

Fairy Falls plays a prominent role in Minnesota history and lore. The falls, just north of Stillwater, is reputed to be the site where a Chippewa woman and her Sioux suitor were killed because of their forbidden, cross-tribal love. Later, when contagious diseases invaded, the sick settlers would often go to the remote falls so they would not infect others. Today, Fairy Falls is a location admired for its’ serene, natural beauty; a place where memories are created, and new legends born.

For more information and to make reservations for the May 10th **Minnesota Statehood Celebration**, please call 651-439-5956.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships and earned income, and government and foundation grants.

For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org.