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GRAM UNVEILS EXHIBITION THEME FOR ARTPRIZE 2015

Nature/Nurture to explore the forces that shape and define our reality

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, April 2, 2015 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is excited to announce the theme of ArtPrize 2015 at the Museum. *ArtPrize at GRAM 2015: Nature/Nurture* is conceived to bring together art that addresses the natural world, the relationships that shape and define us, and ideas about our human impulses and behaviors. This thematic exhibition will bring work from artists across the globe to West Michigan for the three-week international art contest.

The exhibition will explore the question of whether we are product of our heredity or of our environment. This classic construct that has been debated by philosophers and scientists through the ages will be just one dimension of this multi-faceted exhibition.

“GRAM has a history of presenting ArtPrize within a thematic framework, and we are excited to continue that tradition,” said Ron Platt, Chief Curator. “It differentiates our presentation from other venues in the city, and it offers visitors a pathway for considering the art we’re presenting. *Nature/Nurture* is our theme this year, and it is a theme in the broadest possible sense. It’s really three themes; one is Nature, one is Nurture, and the other is how those two together create another concept entirely. As such, I feel we have innumerable options for considering an enormous range of artwork for inclusion in our show.”

GRAM is one of the premiere ArtPrize venues in downtown Grand Rapids. Centrally located in the heart of the city, the Museum is known for hosting some of the strongest work in this international art competition: Public Vote Grand Prize winners in 2010, 2012, and 2014, and the Juried Grand Prize winner in 2014. GRAM was also shortlisted for the honor of Best Venue in 2013 and 2014.

"The Museum has always delivered strong ArtPrize exhibitions and we can't wait to see how this latest theme develops," noted Christian Gaines, ArtPrize Executive Director. "The Museum's willingness and ability to host some of ArtPrize's most ambitious entries has provided artists and visitors with so many cherished experiences."

GRAM is an official venue of ArtPrize 2015, and the Museum is excited to begin the process of meeting new artists and discovering world-class work to feature in the exhibition of *Nature/Nurture*. For more information about the process to submit entries for consideration, visit the [ArtPrize](http://artprize.com) website.

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About ArtPrize

ArtPrize is a radically open international art competition and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For 19 days, three square miles of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, become an open playing field where anyone can find a voice in the conversation about what is art and why it matters. Art from around the world pops up in every inch of downtown, and it's all free and open to the public. It's unorthodox, highly disruptive, and undeniably intriguing to the art world and the public alike. ArtPrize 2015 will take place September 23 to October 11.

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

Focusing on art, design, and creativity, GRAM provides diverse platforms for experiences, ideas, and dialogue that enrich the human spirit and build practical learning skills. Through dynamic exhibitions, collections, learning initiatives, and community collaborations, GRAM increasingly serves as a cultural beacon and civic anchor. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the Art Museum is internationally known for its distinguished design and LEED® Gold certified status. Established in 1910 as the Grand Rapids Art Association, GRAM has grown to include more than 5,000 works of art, including American and European 19th and 20th century painting and sculpture and more than 3,000 works on paper. Embracing the city's legacy as a leading center of design and manufacturing, GRAM has a growing collection in the area of design and modern craft.

For GRAM's hours and admission fees, visit artmuseumgr.org or call 616-831-1000.

Current Exhibitions:

Edward Burtynsky: Water

February 1, 2015 – April 26, 2015

Over a five-year period between 2009 and 2013, acclaimed fine art photographer Edward Burtynsky traveled the globe, shooting from the skies above North America, China, India, Iceland, and Spain, creating a body of work that addresses the various roles water plays in the world today. The images that he captured explore humanity's increasingly mediated relationship with our world's most vital natural resource: water. Sixty of these large-scale photographs will fill the first and second floor galleries of GRAM.

David Greenwood: Stop Motion

February 12, 2015 – May 17, 2015

GRAM presents recent sculptures by Grand Rapids artist David Greenwood that demonstrate his use of symbols and allegory in reflecting on the human condition. The exhibition includes an array of Greenwood's inventive, realist works that demonstrate his confident handling of wood, metal, and other materials. He continues to straddle the boundary between the conscious and unconscious mind, "searching for those images that are both unique and universal." Greenwood was recently honored with the title of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from Kendall College of Art and Design, where taught Sculpture and Functional Art for over 30 years.

GRAM Selects ArtPrize 2014: Encore

Through October 11, 2015

During ArtPrize 2014, GRAM's curatorial team explored the entries on view throughout the city and selected works from 11 different artists with strong resonances to other works in the Museum's collection. This year's collection features photography, installations, print, film, drawing, and sculpture. *GRAM Selects ArtPrize 2014: Encore* showcases these works throughout the Museum in context beside works in GRAM's permanent collection, encouraging guests to explore the connections between them. This curation of select works underscores the significance of Grand Rapids' annual ArtPrize event by presenting selected highlights from ArtPrize on a year-

round basis. The chosen works will rotate on and off view with the Museum's permanent collection through ArtPrize 2015.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am-5pm

Thursday: 10am-9pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Closed Mondays

Museum Admission:

GRAM Members - Free

Adults - \$8.00

Senior Adults & College Students (w/ID) - \$7.00

Youth (ages 6-17) - \$5.00

Children under 6 - Free