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**GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM INCLUDES JENNIFER BARTLETT AMAGANSETT IN
SUMMER EXHIBITION SCHEDULE**

*New Work from Artist, on View Until August 31, 2008, Complements Signature Bartlett Piece in
Museum's Permanent Collection.*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 28, 2008 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents Jennifer Bartlett *Amagansett*, an exhibition of the artist's most recent work. In this series of richly-layered oil paintings, Bartlett unleashes a heightened painterly technique. The canvases are remarkably lush and—while Bartlett has reinterpreted her characteristic grid approach—the works retain the same rationalism that has formed the underpinning of the artist's style throughout her career.

Working from her own photographs, Bartlett depicts the vast ocean shores, expansive skies, and thickets of marsh grass that populate the area near her home on the tip of Long Island. Painted over the course of the last year, the seven diptych paintings vary in dimension from 36 x 72 inches to 108 x 216 inches, each twice as wide as it is tall.

The artist's iconic houses reappear in some of the works including a pair of stoic, juxtaposed cottages in *Amagansett #3 (Two Houses)*. The paintings are sensual and quiet, and as catalogue author Vincent Katz observes, "(they make) no concession to narrative."

GRAM visitors may recognize the artist and be familiar with her technique from works included in the museum's permanent collection. *Small House* (1998-99), a classic signature work by Jennifer Bartlett, is on display in the Level I Auditorium Foyer. *Small House* incorporates sixteen-gauge steel plates coated with white enamel overlaid with a light gray quarter-inch grid. Composed of myriad dots of six unmixed colors of Testors enamel paints, the paintings were conceived as an analytic system of colors. Like modern day versions of Georges Seurat's *pointillist* paintings, Bartlett's work is governed by a system that she devised for alternating colors.

Jennifer Bartlett *Amagansett* is on view at the Grand Rapids Art Museum until August 31, 2008, courtesy of the artist and Richard Gray Gallery-Chicago.

About the artist

Jennifer Bartlett was born in 1941 in Long Beach, California. She received her MFA from Yale in 1965, and since that time her work has been the subject of one-person exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. In addition to the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Bartlett's work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, among many others. Bartlett lives and works in New York City.

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is to provide a gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds can enrich their lives through interaction with works of art in a thought-provoking and creative way. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the new 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 over 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.

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