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**CONTACT**

Kerri VanderHoff  
Grand Rapids Art Museum  
616.831.2914  
[pr@artmuseumgr.org](mailto:pr@artmuseumgr.org)

**ARTPRIZE 2010 WINNER CHRIS LAPORTE SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT THE GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM DECEMBER 10, 2010**

***LaPorte's Work Cavalry, American Officers, 1921 is on View at the Art Museum through December 31***

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., December 2, 2010** –The Grand Rapids Art Museum announced today that the winner of ArtPrize 2010, Chris LaPorte, will be the featured guest speaker during Friday Nights at GRAM on December 10, 2010. His presentation will begin at 7:00 pm in the Cook Auditorium. A reception follows.

Interim Director Randy Van Antwerp stated, "We are pleased to have Chris join us for a conversation about his work and his experience with ArtPrize, LaPorte's monumental drawing is currently on view in the DeVos Van Andel East Atrium Court, where it continues to inspire others."

The 45-minute presentation will be an interview format followed by a question and answer period with audience members. Limited seating is available in the auditorium on a first-come, first-served basis. Overflow audience will be accommodated in the museum lobby with a simulcast of the presentation on the large drop screen. LaPorte will meet and greet afterward during the reception. Live piano music begins in the lobby at 5:30pm and a cash bar is available. Galleries are open until 9pm during Friday Nights at GRAM.

Friday Nights at GRAM admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Children 5 and under always free.

**About ArtPrize**

ArtPrize is a radically open art competition based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, giving away the world's largest art prize. Part arts festival, part social experiment - this international art contest is decided by public vote. For more information visit [www.artprize.org](http://www.artprize.org)

**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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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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