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GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR CELESTE ADAMS
RESIGNS EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2010

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., December 4, 2009 – Today Celeste Adams shared with the Grand Rapids Art Museum Board of Trustees her decision to resign her position as Museum Director effective March 17, 2010, her thirteenth anniversary as Director. She stated, "I have completed my work here and the time is right for me to move on to a new challenge and for the Museum to move into a new era of life." Ms. Adams will assist with the transition, serving as Consulting Director from March 2010 to March 2011 or until a new Director begins.

Celeste Adams became Director of the Grand Rapids Art Museum in 1997. During her thirteen years as Director, she has led the Art Museum through an extraordinary era of growth and transformation and achieved major goals for the institution including landmark exhibitions, important acquisitions of art, and a successful $83 million capital campaign that produced a nationally recognized new Art Museum facility with expanded endowment.

Scott Wierda, Board President stated, "The Museum is deeply grateful to Celeste for thirteen years of selfless dedication and exceptional service. She has completed the monumental challenge of getting the new Museum built, handling the transition and move into the building, and opening the facility with a very successful schedule of programs. As we move into a transition phase, we continue to value Celeste's wisdom and experience and look to her ongoing counsel as we prepare for a new era." Mr. Wierda indicated that the Museum Board will begin a national search for a new Director in the coming weeks.

Please see attached summary regarding Celeste Adams' thirteen-year service as Director of the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Additional images available upon request.

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.

Attachment: Celeste Adams Summary

Celeste Adams Summary

Celeste Adams has served as Director of the Grand Rapids Art Museum since March 1997. In her thirteen years as Director she has grown and transformed the Art Museum, elevating its national stature and setting it on a new course of professional progress. She has completed national re-accreditation for the Museum, doubled annual attendance and membership, increased the Museum's endowment from $1.8 million to its current $15 million, completed an $83 million capital campaign, and overseen the design and construction of a new $75 million Museum facility that opened in 2007 to national acclaim for the beauty of its design and its status as the first LEED Gold certified Art Museum in the world.

During her term as Director over 500 works of art entered the collection by gift and purchase – most notably:

One of the finest impressions in the world of Rembrandt van Rijn's *The Three Crosses*, 4th state, 1653-55, a masterpiece of the Museum collection. Jansma Collection, Grand Rapids Art Museum

Ellsworth Kelly, *Blue White*, 2006, a commissioned 25-foot wall sculpture installed in Wege Pavilion, a unique work by one of the most important living artists of the modern era. Commissioned by Grand Rapids Art Museum, The Meijer Foundation, Richard and Helen DeVos, and Daniel and Pamella DeVos

Eugene Masselink, *Eight-fold Screen*, 1956, one of ten known monumental screens by a leading designer in the Frank Lloyd Wright studio and native of Grand Rapids, the Masselink Screen is the centerpiece of the Design Gallery. Museum Purchase

Josef Hoffmann, *Two-handled Stem Bowl*, 1923, only twenty-five were produced in silver by the Viennese workshop, Wiener Werkstätte. Museum Purchase

George Inness, *Sunset in the Woods*, 1883. Museum Purchase, Endowment for American Art Fund, Drake Quinn Family Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. David Frey – American landscape painting by a preeminent tonalist painter

Mary Cassatt, *The Barefooted Child*, 1896-97. Museum Purchase, Dorothy Scott Gerber Fund – a unique color proof of a major Cassatt print

Ernest Lawson, *Middletown, Rhode Island*, 1913. Museum Purchase, John and Marilyn Drake, Endowment for American Art Fund, and Mr. and Mrs. David G. Frey – classic American Impressionist painting

Manierre Dawson, *Hercules II*, 1913. Museum Purchase, Dorothy Scott Gerber Fund and Sam and Janene Cummings – one of the earliest examples of American cubism

Alexander Calder, *Silver Wire Bracelet*, c. 1940, Museum Purchase, Hollis Baker Fund

Gordon Parks, collection of fourteen signed photographs, including vintage prints by the most important 20th century African-American photographer

Charles Howard, *The Independent Source*, 1950. Museum Purchase, James Pingree Nelson and Mary G. Nelson – major American surrealist painting

Robert Motherwell, *Black Figuration on Blue*, 1950. Kate P. Wolters Family in memory of Richard Wolters, Museum Purchase and Gift of Dedalus Foundation – pivotal 1950 painting in Robert Motherwell's career

Jennifer Bartlett, *Small House*, 1998-99. Museum Purchase, Peter M. Wege and James and Mary Nelson – classic Bartlett installed adjacent to the Museum's reflecting pool

Major gifts to the Museum include:

N.C. Wyeth, *Checking the Traps*, c. 1938. Gift of Peter M. Wege

Rockwell Kent, *From Palmer Hill*, c. 1946. Gift of Peter M. Wege

Pablo Picasso, *Still Life with Cherries*, 1962. Miner S. and Mary Ann Keeler – a unique set of eight states

Karel Appel, *Untitled*, 1970. Gift of LaSalle Bank ABN AMRO

Andy Warhol, *Endangered Species*, 1983. Gift of Jim and Mary Nelson in memory of Robert Kellogg Goodwillie

Exhibitions included award winning publications and the first national and international touring exhibitions by the Museum. Selected exhibitions listed:

A Moral Compass: 17th and 18th Century Painting in the Netherlands, 1999
Canaletto to Constable: English Painting from the Yale Center for British Art, 1999
Unending Frontier: Art of the West, 2000
American Masters: The Richard Manoogian Collection, 2001
Light Screens: The Leaded Glass of Frank Lloyd Wright, 2001
Eye of the Beholder: A History of Photography, 2002
The American Spirit: Frederic Church, Winslow Homer, Thomas Moran, 2003
An Impressionist Eye: Painting and Sculpture from the Levin Foundation, 2004
Drawn from Nature: The Plant Lithographs of Ellsworth Kelly, 2005
Modern Masters of German Expressionism: Artists of Brücke, 2005
The Eames Lounge Chair: An Icon of Modern Design, 2006
Modern and Contemporary Art from The Netherlands, 2007
Rapid Exposure: Warhol in Series, 2008
Richard Avedon: Larger than Life, 2008
Moby Dick: Frank Stella and Herman Melville, 2009
Calder Jewelry, 2010

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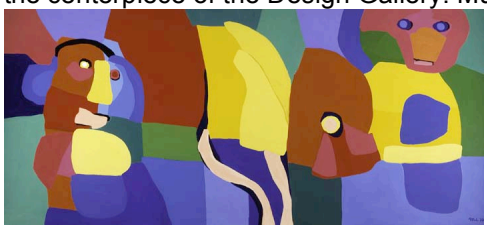
Eugene Masselink, *Eight-fold Screen*, 1956, one of ten known monumental screens by a leading designer in the Frank Lloyd Wright studio and native of Grand Rapids, the Masselink Screen is the centerpiece of the Design Gallery. Museum Purchase



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