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GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM CELEBRATES *INSPIRED BY THE SEASON*,
DECEMBER 21, 2012 – JANUARY 6, 2013

Event inspired by the donation of a major gift of 24 works forming the complete series The Flight into Egypt by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (Italian, 1727-1804)

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., December 17, 2012 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents *Inspired by the Season*, beginning Friday, December 21, 2012 through January 6, 2013, a multifaceted celebration for visitors to explore the inspiration found in artistic expression, in community collaborations, and in gifts of art that endure for generations to come. *Inspired by the Season* consists of four unique components: a preview of selected works of art from the upcoming exhibition *The Jansma Print Collection at the Grand Rapids Art Museum: Five Centuries of Masterpieces*, celebrating the gift of the complete series *The Flight into Egypt* by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo to the Museum Collection; expanded hours for The Jansma Family Works on Paper Study, a unique community resource providing access to over 3000 works of art; an opportunity to learn more about the art and philanthropy behind The Jansma Collection at GRAM, featuring important works on paper with a Christian theme from the 16th through the 20th centuries; and a festive display showcasing local artist-designed wreaths and an opportunity for guests to share their own inspired thoughts on a community wreath in the Museum Lobby.

Community Collaboration: Welcome Wreaths at GRAM

Throughout history, artists have found inspiration in family, faith, community celebrations and other traditions; these themes can also be found in works by today's artists. *Welcome Wreaths at GRAM* features local artist-designed wreaths, each expressing their own traditions and perspectives. In addition, guests can participate in a special community welcome wreath project, where they can share what inspires them on themed Post-It notes and post them on the community wreath in the Museum Lobby.

Friday, December 21, at 6:00pm - stop in for a meet and greet session during *Friday Nights at GRAM* with some of the local artists participating in *Welcome Wreaths at GRAM*. Hear the inspiration behind their wreath designs, grab a drink at the cash bar, and enjoy live piano music. (Also that evening: a *Friday Night Conversation* presentation at 7:00pm by artist Jason Quigno, titled: Native American Stories Through Art.)

Wreath artists are: Abigail Bradley; Alynn Guerra and Carlos Aceves; Derrick Hollowell; Salvador Jiménez; Anthony Mead; and Jenn Schaub & Taylor Greenfield.

Preview Exhibition of *The Jansma Print Collection at the Grand Rapids Art Museum: Five Centuries of Masterpieces*

Inspired by the Season celebrates the spirit of the holidays and the announcement of the special gift of 24 works of art to GRAM's collection by the Jansma family, completing the full set of prints, *The Flight Into Egypt* (1750-1753) by Italian artist Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (1727-1804). Selected works from this set, and from the overall Jansma Print Collection at GRAM, will be on

view in the Works on Paper Study during a special preview, for the duration of *Inspired by the Season*.

In 2005 the Jansma Print Collection of the Grand Rapids Art Museum was established as a collection of prints by some of art history's most celebrated artists who have been inspired by Christian faith and Biblical themes. With this gift of 24 works of art, there are now 57 total works in the Jansma Print Collection (full exhibition scheduled in March of 2013). These gifts help make GRAM a destination for print scholars, printmakers, and students. Explore five centuries of great works of art, including the recent gift of 18th century Tiepolo works; Albrecht Durer of the 16th century; 17th-century artist Rembrandt Van Rijn, whose featured works include *The Three Crosses, fourth state*, the greatest masterpiece in the Museum's print collection; Edouard Manet representing the 19th century; and the 20th-century artist Max Pechstein.

Research/Resource Room: The Jansma Family Works on Paper Study

The Jansma Family Works on Paper Study at GRAM is an important community resource, containing over 3,000 works on paper. These works of art of European and American origin date from 1500 to the present and constitute a history of the mediums of printmaking, drawing, and photography.

During *Inspired by the Season*, the Study is open extended hours to visit the Preview Exhibition, matching GRAM's normal hours of operation. Visit the website for details on GRAM's holiday hours.

Whether guests are seeking a unique experience with significant works from art history, looking to learn more about access to over 3,000 works in the Works on Paper Study, or are looking for an opportunity to explore and share a deeper meaning of Christmas, there's one place to find five centuries of print masterpieces in one room for it all during *Inspired by the Season: The Jansma Family Works on Paper Study* at GRAM.

Art and Philanthropy: Sharing a Passion for Art and Community

The Jansma Family blends a deep commitment of faith with gifts of art masterpieces, enhancing the collection of the Museum and enriching the community by providing access to these important works of art. From the founding of the Museum in 1910, and including the first major gift of important prints by Mabel H. Perkins in 1947 through the recent acquisition of Tiepolo prints donated by the Jansma Family, the collection continues to grow through gifts and purchases. GRAM encourages others to consider sharing their interests and passions with the community through great works of art.

About *The Flight into Egypt*

The recent gift of twenty-four works forming the complete series of *The Flight into Egypt*, 1750-1753, by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (Italian, 1727-1804), completes one of the goals of the Jansma Print Collection—to include masterpieces of printmaking from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries.

Domenico Tiepolo was one of the most important Italian artists of the eighteenth century. Primarily a painter, he quickly excelled at the technique of etching and completed over 175 etchings during his career. The *Flight Into Egypt* etchings are Domenico's masterpiece, created during a formative period of his career. The artist's ability to convey light as well as form solely through line is masterful. His active, expressive strokes bring the scenes to life.

By 1750 Tiepolo was a newly established artist, having trained under his father Giovanni Battista Tiepolo in Venice. At the time he was creating the *Flight Into Egypt* etchings, he was assisting his father with the frescoes for the palace of Carl Philipp von Greiffenklau, prince-bishop of Würzburg. Before leaving Germany in 1753 Domenico completed and published the twenty-four

etchings and published them as *Idee pittoresche sopra la fugga in Egitto* (Picturesque Ideas on the Flight Into Egypt), dedicated to the prince-bishop.

The story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus' flight into Egypt is told in the Bible, Matthew II: 13-15. "When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'" A more detailed description of the Flight is provided in the Apocrypha gospels, the texts of which had been used by artists as source material for centuries.

Preceding Domenico, only one artist had executed an extended pictorial series of subject: in the mid-seventeenth century Charles Massé etched twelve Flight into Egypt plates after paintings by Annibale Carracci. Domenico may have sought to honor his family's patron Carl Philipp with a print series that far exceeded the scope of all previous versions.

The series reflects Joseph's changing role in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Previously that member of the Holy family was consigned to the background, but the ideas of the Counter Reformation raised Joseph to a new prominence. Most notably in two of his plates Domenico shows Joseph holding the Christ child in his arms, a meaningful sign of his increased status.

With the *Flight Into Egypt* series Domenico Tiepolo applies masterful etching technique and careful observations of human expression and gesture to a Biblical narrative, drawing out subtle nuances from the traditional story

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is: to inspire discovery, enjoyment, and learning about art; to serve as a welcoming and inclusive cultural resource; to collect, conserve, and interpret works of art of the finest quality. 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 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.

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