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### GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM CELEBRATES FREDERIK MEIJER'S LIFE AND LEGACY *GRAM Showcases Meijer's Contributions to the Permanent Collection, Currently on View*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., November 29, 2011** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum celebrates the life and legacy of Frederik Meijer through a presentation showcasing several works of art donated by Fred and his wife, Lena Meijer. The works of art are currently on view and will remain so throughout the rest of the year.

GRAM Director and CEO Dana Friis-Hansen said, "The GRAM family mourns the passing of Fred Meijer, a generous and spirited community leader whose good deeds have greatly impacted many segments of the West Michigan community. Our hearts go out to Lena and the Meijer family."

Fred and Lena, as well as the Meijer Corporation and the Meijer Foundation, have been generous supporters of GRAM throughout the years and have contributed in a variety of ways—from support of Art Museum Galas to donations to the Endowment Fund. Fred Meijer served as a Board Trustee from 1960-1963 and also served on the Foundation Board of Trustees. He became a Life Member Trustee in October 2006.

The Meijers have also contributed through the donation of many works of art, and through a significant donation to the capital campaign for the new Art Museum building, built in 2007. The Meijer Foundation was also a major contributor toward the commission of Ellsworth Kelly's monumental *Blue White*, a large-scale work in the lobby of the new GRAM building.

Their first gift of art to the Museum came in 1974, with a drawing by Grand Rapids artist Paul Collins, titled *Man with Lunch Bucket*. Subsequent gifts reflect a diversity of taste, from an English Romantic era portrait by Thomas Lawrence, to a charcoal self-portrait by American Ashcan School artist George Bellows, to German Expressionist woodcuts by Max Pechstein (currently installed on Level III).

As past Trustee and major Campaign donor, Fred and Lena have been recognized with the naming of the Fred and Lena Meijer Education Center at GRAM, where West Michigan school children enjoy the Art Museum through hands-on learning activities.

"During ArtPrize this past October," Friis-Hansen said, "I was lucky enough to have dinner with the Meijers and walk with them through the Museum on a Friday night when it was full of visitors. I was so impressed at the warmth and excitement with which they were greeted—a tribute to the appreciation our community feels about Fred and his family. He will be missed, but his leadership and example has influenced many others."

The presentation of works of art celebrating the life and legacy of Frederik Meijer will be on view in the main level East Court. Visitors are encouraged to stop in during the downtown tree lighting and other festivities for a moment of reflection and remembrance of one of West Michigan's finest citizens.

**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 3,500 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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