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***Michigan Perspectives Exhibition Opens October 21 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum***

*Includes works of art from the collection and from the community*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., October 14, 2011** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents *Michigan Perspectives*, on view October 21 through November 13, 2011. The exhibition is offered in conjunction with the Michigan Film, Art & Literature Symposium taking place at GRAM on November 12 & 13, 2011.

The state motto of Michigan is: If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you. This might also reveal something about the people living within its coastal borders. The Great Lakes that surround Michigan's upper and lower landmasses function as both barrier and passageway. Between these vast bodies of water lie forested land, fertile soil, and other natural resources that have provided inspiration for industrious people. Over time, industrial and population cycles vary, while water remains a constant presence. *Michigan Perspectives* offers a selection of art from the permanent collection and from the community that explore these themes, both past and present.

Guests are encouraged to explore the art in the exhibition, and consider attending the symposium to share ideas focusing on a theme: identifying and understanding the Michigan perspective in creative expression. A significant component to the discussion is defining the region from within the Michigan community along with an awareness of how others perceive and represent it.

From the permanent collection, the exhibition includes works of art by Paul Collins, Reynold Weidenaar, Steven Benson, and photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company. From the community, works of art by Andrew Krieger, Dianne Carroll Burdick, Terry Johnston, Brian Kelly and Jason Quigno are included. The exhibition selection is offered as a conversation starter; a sampling of work that asks the viewer to consider what common themes and unique attributes are found in Michigan-based works of art.

An artist reception is planned for Friday, November 11, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm in the Grand Rapids Art Museum lobby and east court.

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 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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