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**GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM AWARDED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
GRANT TO SUPPORT *RICHARD AVEDON: LARGER THAN LIFE* EXHIBITION**

*NEA Grant is the Third in Four Years for the Art Museum*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 30, 2008** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) announced today that the organization has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in the amount of \$10,000 to support the exhibition *Richard Avedon: Larger Than Life* and related programs.

The *Richard Avedon: Larger Than Life* exhibition is organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Center for Creative Photography for an exclusive presentation at the Grand Rapids Art Museum from October 3, 2008 through January 4, 2009. The exhibition includes over 80 photographs drawn from the collection of the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona, which houses the Richard Avedon Archive.

Previous NEA awards were granted to the Grand Rapids Art Museum in 2005, in support of the exhibition *Drawn from Nature: The Plant Lithographs of Ellsworth Kelly*, and in support of *The Eames Lounge Chair: An Icon of Modern Design*, enabling the exhibition to travel during the summer of 2006 to the Museum of Arts and Design in New York.

**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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