

# GRAM



## **festival 2011**

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### **Festival of the Arts 2011 Regional Arts Competition and Exhibition Will Be Held at the Grand Rapids Art Museum**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 08, 2010** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) and Festival of the Arts announced today that the Festival Regional Arts Competition and Exhibition will be at GRAM in 2011. Festival of the Arts representatives have been searching for a new venue to hold the exhibition for the coming year since the sale of the Old Federal Building and its renovation schedule was announced.

“The Board of Trustees reviewed the request from Festival to host the Regional Arts Exhibition for 2011,” said Randy Van Antwerp, Interim Director at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. “We are pleased that with a little adjustment to our upcoming exhibition schedule, the Art Museum is able to host the 2011 exhibition in our second floor galleries.”

Alex Castro, Festival 2011 co-chair and 30-year Festival veteran noted that “we are excited to extend and strengthen our partnership with GRAM by bringing the Regional Arts Show back to the Art Museum. We want to thank the Board of Trustees and the GRAM staff for all of their support and this incredible opportunity to display local artists in such a fabulous facility.”

The Grand Rapids Art Museum has served as host venue for the Festival Film Competition since moving to the new location in 2007 and plans to continue to do so while also accommodating the Regional Arts Exhibition in 2011.

The Festival 2010 Regional Art Show had 791 pieces entered by 296 artists. Of those, 364 works by 208 artists were included in the show. The exhibition was able to expand in the past several years due to the fact that the building had been vacant since 2007. Having the entire first floor of the Old Federal Building created the opportunity to allow artists to enter four works and include three jurors. Planning for Festival 2011 is in the preliminary stages and the Regional Arts Committee expects they will limit the number of entries to two per artist to accommodate the new space available. Multiple jurors are still being considered.

“During the years prior to GRAM leaving the Old Federal Building and all the years that I have been Chair of this committee, we’ve enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with GRAM staff. I am happy to be working with them again,” said Fred Bivins, 2011 Regional Arts Chair. He continued, “The Festival Committee recognizes that the Art Museum exhibition calendar and space requirements changes every year and might not always be able to accommodate the

show, so future contingency plans will be implemented, but for 2011, we're happy to put this scheduling and location problem behind us."

Festival volunteers will handle intake and the return of all art and assist GRAM staff in the installation, removal, and other requirements needed to host the exhibition. The dates for Festival of the Arts 2011 are June 3, 4, and 5.

### **About Festival of the Arts**

Festival is nationally recognized as the largest all-volunteer arts event in the country. Festival is included in the U.S. Library of Congress' Local Legacies collection, as the choice of U.S. Representative Vern Ehlers for being the area's finest contribution to the community. In 2005, Gov. Jennifer Granholm selected Festival to receive the Governor's Arts Award for Best Cultural Organization.

### **About the Grand Rapids Art Museum**

The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) celebrates 100 years of art, legacy and vision with its Centennial Year in 2010. The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum 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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