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### **CONTACT**

Kerri VanderHoff  
Grand Rapids Art Museum  
616.831.2914  
[kvanderhoff@artmuseumgr.org](mailto:kvanderhoff@artmuseumgr.org)

### ***José Narezo: New Work opens April 24 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum***

*Guest Speaker Mark Azkoul, Filmmaker, will Screen his Short Documentary Featuring José Narezo's Recent Work and Provide Insight into the Creative Process*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 3, 2009** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents the work of José Narezo (1945-2008), one of West Michigan's most celebrated artists. The exhibition, featuring work from Narezo's recent collection titled *Al Revés (The Upside Down Series)*, was planned with the artist last fall and showcases Narezo's new techniques with gouache and mixed media. As the community mourns the loss of Narezo, who passed away on December 17, 2008, the exhibition will go on as planned with the assistance of Kathleen McDermott-Narezo, wife of the artist. The special guest speaker at the opening night reception is Mark Azkoul, a documentary filmmaker who created a short film depicting Narezo at work in the studio on *Al Revés*. Azkoul will screen the documentary and also lecture on the creative process he witnessed while spending many hours during filming with Narezo.

*José Narezo: New Work* is on view from April 24 through May 24, 2009. The opening night reception is scheduled for Friday, April 24 and will coincide with regular programming featuring music, cash bar and dinner or appetizer options. Admission to the museum after 5:00 pm is \$5 for non-members and members are free. Mark Azkoul will speak at 7:00 pm in the Cook Auditorium,.

José Narezo is known and admired by a diverse group of friends in West Michigan, where his talent and generosity affect the lives of so many. The Grand Rapids Art Museum welcomes members of the community to join us in celebration of the life and new work of José Narezo.

### **About the artist**

Prominently recognized for his painting, murals, and mosaics, José Narezo is one of the best known artists, art educators and advocates in West Michigan. He has been a viable and successful working artist for the last 40 years and a dedicated teacher of art for the past 25 years. Born in Anahuac, Mexico in 1945, the youngest of twelve children, he received a master's of fine art from Michigan State University. He studied under the British-born, abstract expressionist, James Adley, and, also, at the University of London. His extensive travels and his Latin heritage have had a profound influence on his work.

Image 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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