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**Festival of the Arts Jurist Chris Stoffel Overvoorde Presents Paintings at Old Federal Building to Complement Current Exhibition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum**

*Four Paintings in the Festival Regional Arts Competition Jury Section Correspond with The Alberta Drawings on View at GRAM*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 28, 2010** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents the works of Chris Stoffel Overvoorde in the Works on Paper Gallery, Level II. The exhibition, *The Alberta Drawings*, is on view until August 15, 2010. Overvoorde, an accomplished artist and well-known art professor, was selected as the 2010 Festival of the Arts jurist in the Regional Arts category of Painting, Drawing and Prints. Works of art by the jurors are displayed in the center hallway of the Old Federal Building, the venue for the 2010 Festival Regional Arts Competition. Overvoorde has chosen four paintings from his collection that represent an extension of the exhibition currently at GRAM. Visitors will recognize similar landscapes used in both painting and drawings, and are encouraged to compare and contrast the techniques.

In the summer of 1993, Chris Stoffel Overvoorde traveled to Alberta, Canada as part of the University of Lethbridge Artist in Residency Program. During this period, which he describes as the most intense two months of his life as an artist, Overvoorde completed forty oil sketches, forty watercolors and sixty drawings. He found the wide-open space of the Canadian prairie inspiring and has returned there seven times since.

Overvoorde's images of the Alberta prairie record the relationships of atmosphere, light, value, proportion and scale. Each of the works is square in format, presenting a challenge to the artist as it denies the natural horizontal format of the landscape itself. Overvoorde found that the square belongs unnaturally to the prairie because man has taken the expanse of the prairie and superimposed upon its natural contours a subdivision of square-mile sections. The square drawings and paintings, then, are indicative of an art problem, while also reflecting man's interaction with the prairie.

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To view Overvoorde's work at the Festival Regional Arts Exhibition, the Old Federal Building is open to the public Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 29, 30 and 31, Noon to 6:00 pm, Friday June 4, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday, June 5, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, Sunday, June 6, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13 Noon to 6:00 pm. Admission to the Old Federal Building is free of charge. The Grand Rapids Art Museum is open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm, Fridays until 9:00pm and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm. Closed Mondays. GRAM offers extended hours during Festival Weekend.

#### **About the artist**

Chris Stoffel Overvoorde graduated from Kendall School of Design, and from the University of Michigan, BSD 1964 and MFA 1966. He is a Professor of Art Emeritus at Calvin College. His book *Passing the Colors: Engaging Visual Culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, which chronicles his life in art, was published in 2002. He has exhibited his work in numerous group exhibitions and over fifty solo exhibitions including: *Chris Stoffel Overvoorde: A Life in Art* at the Grand Rapids Art Museum in 2003.

Images available upon request.

#### **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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