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PATCHES OF COLOR JUXTAPOSES TWO COLORFUL QUILTS BY SUSANA ALLEN HUNTER AND TWO IMPORTANT PAINTED WORKS FROM THE GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM COLLECTION, ON VIEW AUGUST 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 22, 2012

Exhibition is a sneak preview of upcoming full retrospective of The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Allen Hunter, presented at GRAM in 2013.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., August 7, 2012 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum presents *Patches of Color*, a "sneak preview" exhibition that places two colorful quilts by artist Susana Allen Hunter alongside two paintings by modern masters from GRAM's permanent collection—Richard Diebenkorn's *Ingleside*, and Ben Nicholson's *16 December 1939*. The exhibition offers a unique perspective on works of different mediums by juxtaposing the quilts and paintings and illuminating how the abstract, asymmetrical, and colorful patterns of the quilts and paintings complement each other.

Susana Allen Hunter (1912-2005) was an African-American woman who made quilts in Wilcox County, Alabama. Created from the 1930s to the 1970s, Hunter's colorful quilts reflect her life in that rural community. Using her innate flair for abstract design, she pieced together and quilted hundreds of colorful improvisational quilts throughout her lifetime.

This exhibition anticipates the full retrospective exhibition of Hunter's work, *The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Allen Hunter*, on view at GRAM in the summer of 2013. The retrospective is organized by the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Patches of Color will be on view at the Grand Rapids Art Museum from August 17 through October 22, 2012, on Level III.

Special discounts for American Quilter's Society conference guests

DeVos Place conference guests receive \$1 off admission on Friday, August 24, 2012, by showing their conference badge at the Guest Services desk (after 5pm, this means admission is just \$4!). GRAM is open late on Friday evenings and includes live music, cash bar, and galleries open until 9pm. View more admission details at artmuseumgr.org.

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum

The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is: to inspire discovery, enjoyment, and learning about art; to serve as a welcoming and inclusive cultural resource; to collect, conserve, and interpret works of art of the finest quality. 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 19th and 20th century painting and sculpture and more than 3,500 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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