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WARRINGTON COLESCOTT: CABARET, COMEDY & SATIRE OPENS AT THE GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM OCTOBER 28, 2011 THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2012

Exhibition includes prints from renowned printmaker Warrington Colescott, a complementary Inside Jokes exhibition, a visit from the artist, special programming, and collaborations

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., October 21, 2011 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents *Warrington Colescott: Cabaret, Comedy & Satire*, on view October 28, 2011 through January 15, 2012. The exhibition includes prints from Wisconsin-based artist Warrington Colescott, America's premier satirical printmaker, who has trained his artistic eye on the fashions and foibles of human behavior for more than sixty years. He is internationally respected for his exceptional command of complex and innovative techniques and the satiric bite of his subject matter. In the tradition of William Hogarth, Honoré Daumier, and George Grosz, Colescott employs his sharp wit and vivid imagination to interpret contemporary and historical events.

Described as a storyteller who skips all the dull parts, Colescott's subjects range from literature and the history of printmaking to the antics of government officials and the theatrical excess of the cabaret.

The art exhibited conveys Colescott's admitted fascination with "that black zone between tragedy and high comedy, where a little pull or push one way or the other can transmute screams into laughter."

Warrington Colescott: Cabaret, Comedy & Satire includes a complementary exhibition titled *Inside Jokes: The Tradition of Satire in Art*, drawn from GRAM's permanent collection; *Warrington Colescott: Artist, Storyteller & Trailblazer*, a three-part Saturday lecture series; *Bagels, Books & Beans*, a book club; related *Friday Night Conversations*, and collaborations. (See information below.)

Inside Jokes: The Tradition of Satire in Art highlights the art-historical tradition of satire in etchings, engravings, and lithographs from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From the moral critiques of William Hogarth to the mischievous caricatures of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, these artists used the graphic strength of printmaking to critique and poke fun at human follies. This exhibition is on view for the same duration as *Warrington Colescott: Cabaret, Comedy & Satire*—October 28, 2011 through January 15, 2012.

Exhibition-Related Events

- **October 27, 2011 – Member's Preview (call 616-831-2912 to join)**
Preview party from 7-9 p.m. Join Warrington Colescott and Mary Weaver Chapin, the exhibition curator, for the Member Preview Lecture: "The Art of Satire: A Chat With Warrington Colescott," at 7:30 p.m.

- **October 28, 2011 – Friday Night Conversation with special guest, Gilda's LaughFest: Seriously Funny**
As the Art Museum opens *Warrington Colescott: Cabaret, Comedy & Satire*, GRAM welcomes a special organization that, like Colescott, understands the duality of human emotion. When big things happen in life, it is sometimes hard to find our smile. And yet some of the most inspired comedic material comes from the deepest pain. In this presentation from Gilda's LaughFest, learn about the connection between laughter and pain, and what inspired a local organization to engage the community in a seriously funny conversation about emotional health.
- **November 5 & 6, 2011 – Book Club Discussion**
Bagels, Books & Beans discusses *Dillinger: The Untold Story*. 10 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Free to attend with Museum admission, free coffee and bagels.
- **December 2, 2011 – Colescott Cabaret**
Enjoy a live cabaret performance at GRAM at 7pm, following the Art Museum's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- **December 10, 2011 – Lecture**
Mary Weaver Chapin presents, "Time-Traveling with Warrington Colescott: History Revisited and Revised" at 2 p.m.
- **January 7, 2012 – Lecture**
Mariel Versluis, artist and Associate Professor of Printmaking and Drawing at Kendall College of Art and Design, presents, "Warrington Colescott and the History of Printmaking" at 2 p.m.
- **January 14, 2012 – Lecture**
Brett Colley, artist and Associate Professor of Art and Design at Grand Valley State University, presents, "Whether to Laugh or Cry: Satirical Printmaking in America" at 2 p.m.
- **January 7 & 8, 2012 – Book Club Discussion**
Bagels, Books & Beans discusses *Century Girl: 100 Years in the Life of Doris Eaton Travis, Last Living Star of the Ziegfeld Follies*. 10 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Free to attend with Museum admission, free coffee and bagels.

Find more details online at www.artmuseumgr.org.

Warrington Colescott: Cabaret, Comedy & Satire is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum.

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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