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**Anila Quayyum Agha WINS ARTPRIZE PUBLIC & JURIED VOTE**

*[DIS]COMFORT ZONES resonates with the people*

**Grand Rapids, MI, October 10, 2014** – After 3 weeks exploring the City, discovering art at every twist and turn, the people have spoken! Anila Quayyum Agha, *Intersections* has been a crowd favorite from the beginning, and the votes are now in to back it up. "On behalf of every member of the GRAM staff and our Board of Trustees," said Director & CEO Dana Friis-Hansen, "I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Anila. We were impressed with her skill and craft with the materials and tools she used as well as her expressive power for exploring religion, cultural customs, and beliefs. It's been a pleasure to work with Anila, and I hope that this achievement provides a platform for her continued growth and success as an artist."

Speaking with Anila after the announcement she said, "I am profoundly grateful to the ArtPrize organization, the wonderful people at GRAM (especially Cindy Buckner and Dana Friis-Hansen), the experienced and knowledgeable jurors, and the wonderful people of Grand Rapids for giving me this honor. The jurors and the public had their work cut out for them with the large number of great entries as well as the quality that was apparent in the art work. I am humbled that I was selected. Thank you!"

"I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to ArtPrize for everything they have done to elevate the public discourse on art in our community," said Chief Curator Ron Platt. "It is so inspiring to see the hundreds of thousands of people exploring our City to see the amazing array of art on view. GRAM looks forward to many more years of collaboration and partnership with ArtPrize as we strive to be a civic and cultural beacon for the City of Grand Rapids."

*[DIS]COMFORT ZONES* will be on view at GRAM through Sunday, October 12, 2014. The entire second floor of GRAM will then be closed to the public in preparation for *Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts*, which opens to the public on October 26, 2014. Stay tuned for an announcement in early November to learn what ArtPrize 2014 pieces will be on view for *GRAM Selects ArtPrize 2014: Encore!*

**About *[DIS]COMFORT ZONES*:**

GRAM selected 19 artists for its ArtPrize 2014 exhibition, *[DIS]COMFORT ZONES*. The exhibition features works of art from regional, national, and international artists, in mediums including painting, sculpture, mixed media, drawing, photography, video, and more. These works highlight the powerful ways in which artists take risks and push boundaries. Whether through subject matter, process, or point of view, artists pull viewers—and themselves—out of their comfort zones to see, feel and understand the world differently. Artists in the exhibition explore issues surrounding the body and identity, politics and war, vulnerability and ambiguity, danger and violence, fragmentation and distortion, and culture and religion.

**About the Grand Rapids Art Museum**

Focusing on art, design, and creativity, GRAM provides diverse platforms for experiences, ideas, and dialogue that enrich the human spirit and build practical learning skills. Through dynamic exhibitions, collections, learning initiatives, and community collaborations, GRAM increasingly serves as a cultural beacon and civic anchor. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the 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 3,000 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.

For GRAM's hours and admission fees, visit [artmuseumgr.org](http://artmuseumgr.org) or call 616-831-1000.

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