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ELEPHANT WHIRLPOOL UNVEILED

Adonna Khare to join GRAM for Annual Member Party

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, November 3, 2014 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is excited to announce that Adonna Khare, winner of ArtPrize 2012, will be joining its members at the Annual Member Party on November 4, 2014. GRAM will unveil *Elephant Whirlpool*, its new acquisition from Adonna Khare, to its members at 7:00 pm that evening.

"We began serious discussions with Adonna about acquiring one of her works for our permanent collection back in August of 2013," said Director & CEO Dana Friis-Hansen. "We received several photos of works in progress and sketches of this one excited us the most because of its allusions to Elephants, GRAM, ArtPrize, and West Michigan. When it was finished she shipped the actual work for approval. When we unrolled it we knew we made the right choice. We're so excited to unveil it on November 4."

Elephant Whirlpool was accessioned into GRAM's collection September 17, 2014, and was made possible by a generous contribution to the Museum by Bill and Marilyn Crawford. The complete drawing is 96 x 60 inches, carbon pencil on paper, and is similar to the ArtPrize 2012 winning work, *Elephants*, in the way that it features diverse animal species large and small interacting in an imagined tableau.

"The drawing is a sort of homage to the *Elephants* work that won ArtPrize in 2012," said artist Adonna Khare. "By starting with the Elephant, it's akin to my new start as a full time artist. The drawing really speaks to my gratitude to the GRAM, Grand Rapids, and ArtPrize. In it, I reference many life events that have happened since 2012. For example, the gorilla represents the death of my father due to a brain tumor. The lion is my daughter Kinsey."

Khare's dramatic works are built from a love and knowledge of animals coupled with her conscious and subconscious thoughts and instincts as she processes human events in her life and the larger world. The animals in *Elephant Whirlpool* are purposely situated to confront the viewer. They're tightly packed, almost claustrophobic, to try to express how much has happened in Khare's life over the past two years. She hopes the drawing will evoke a dialogue, a sense of wonder, and connection with the viewer; a lens through which to view the human condition with all of its heartbreak, joy, and wonder.

Elephant Whirlpool has many special connections to Michigan as well. Khare explained, "having been able to spend more time in Michigan really affected the work. The whirlpool speaks to the enormity and endlessness of Lake Michigan. Having spent some time on the Lake, I became obsessed with the lighthouses. Like family, lighthouses are beacons that get you through the dark and the fog. The storm is my feeling of chaos and change since ArtPrize; the future is unclear. It has its share of danger and life."

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 or call 616-831-1000.

Current Exhibitions:

Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts

On view October 26, 2014 through January 18, 2014. This exhibition is an exemplary selection of rarely seen drawings, watercolors, and pastels featuring some of the world's most renowned artists, spanning the past six centuries.

Jessica Joy London: A State of Wonder

On view October 23, 2014 through January 2, 2015. Jessica Joy London creates paintings by manipulating colored inks onto paper using everyday objects. Her bright, abstracted images look both biologically organic and mysteriously imagined.

From the Artist's Hand: Drawings from GRAM's Collection

On view October 26, 2014 through January 18, 2015. This exhibition highlights treasures from GRAM's collection of drawings, curated to complement *Marks of Genius*.

Re-Envisioning The Nutcracker

On view November 20, 2014 through January 11, 2015. This exhibition provides a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of designing and staging the Grand Rapids Ballet's collaborative production, reimagined under the direction of Patricia Barker and the creative vision of Chris Van Allsburg and Eugene Lee.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am-5pm

Thursday: 10am-9pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Closed Mondays

Museum Admission:

General Admission:

GRAM Members – Free

Adults - \$8.00

Senior Adults & College Students(W ID) - \$7.00

Youth (ages 6-17) - \$5.00

Children under 6 – Free

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