GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF CURATOR

Ron Platt Assumes Position of Chief Curator

GRAND RAPIDS, MI (September 17, 2014) – Dana Friis-Hansen, Director & CEO of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) announced the appointment today of Ron Platt as Chief Curator. Platt officially joins the GRAM team today.

Through the course of an extensive national search, GRAM selected Platt, who most recently served as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA). During his 7-year tenure in Birmingham, Ron developed and implemented long-term goals and objectives for the Museum’s curatorial department, including organizing exhibitions and accompanying publications, as well as the development and presentation of significant additions to the permanent art collection.

"Ron Platt will be a significant addition to GRAM’s leadership team," said Dana Friis-Hansen, GRAM Director & CEO. "I am confident that he will lead us to a new level with our collections, exhibitions, and programming. I know that Ron is looking forward to joining our team, and he will be a huge asset to the institution as he helps us implement our mission and strategic plan with energy and thoughtfulness."

GRAM’s new Chief Curator brings a wealth of strong leadership and curatorial experience to the Museum. Platt served for five years as Curator of Exhibitions for the Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He began his career as Curatorial Assistant for List Visual Arts Center, and was subsequently promoted to Assistant Curator. Platt went on to be selected as Curator for the Southeastern Center of Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has received a BA in American Studies from University of Maryland and an MBA in Arts Administration from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ron has a wide variety of experience working with museum boards and committees as well as faculty and staff. His professional experience includes fundraising, grant writing, programming, and training of both staff and docents. He has lectured regularly to diverse groups, led interpretive tours, organized events, led public outreach, and planned national travel itineraries for support groups.

"I am thrilled to be joining the GRAM team as the Museum’s Chief Curator," said Platt. "Like the board, staff, and other committed constituents, I seek to connect with—and help expand—our audience through excellence and innovation in terms of exhibitions, acquisitions, and related programs. One of my immediate priorities will be to immerse myself in the West Michigan community of artists, designers, and civic and cultural institutions in order to keep forging meaningful connections between GRAM and the community."
"The Board was immediately impressed with Ron, and his track record in organizing outstanding, successful exhibitions," said Mitchell Watt, President of the GRAM Board of Trustees. "He has a well developed philosophy for managing staff, and extensive experience with trustees, donors, members, and the public. He began developing his curatorial ideas and strategies long before his selection was official, and we’re excited about the direction that he will lead us in. Perhaps most importantly for us, it was clear that Ron developed a love for GRAM and for GR from his initial visit."

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 www.artmuseumgr.org or call 616-831-1000.

Current Exhibitions:
ArtPrize 2014 at GRAM: [DIS]COMFORT ZONES

Museum Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Closed Mondays

Museum Admission:
General Admission
GRAM Members: Free
Adults: $8.00
Senior Adults & College Students (with ID): $7.00
Youth (ages 6-17): $5.00
Children under 6: Free

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