



## **CONTACT**

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## **GRAM PRESENTS JESSICA JOY LONDON: A STATE OF WONDER**

*Current Michigan Artist Series exhibition on view through January 2, 2015*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI, December 4, 2014** – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents *Jessica Joy London: A State of Wonder*. Jessica Joy London creates paintings and drawings by manipulating colored inks onto paper using everyday objects. This exhibition is GRAM's latest installment in its *Michigan Artist Series*, and will be on view through January 2, 2015.

"Jessica Joy London's paintings are magnets for the curious mind," noted Ron Platt, Chief Curator. "What are we looking at? How did she do that? Jessica's approach to art is experimental, like a research scientist. She doesn't plan the visual outcome of her work—that is determined by the interaction of her materials and the principles of physics."

Jessica Joy London's artworks are artifacts of chance, conscious decision-making, and the laws of natural phenomena. She closely observes the ordinary in the everyday for inspiration and often integrates simple materials into her art, such as water from her fish tank, garlic and onion skins, grapefruit, leaves, and grasses. She combines these with colored inks spilled in a systematic way onto synthetic paper. Her bright, abstracted images look both biologically organic and mysterious.

"I imagined if it rained color, the landscape would look like my paintings," explained Jessica Joy London. "Shades of blue would flow from leaf to fallen leaf picking them up and repositioning them on bright green blades of grass and grey concrete in harmonious compositions."

Born in Essequibo, Guyana, London holds an MFA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has exhibited in the United States and internationally, including the Artcomplex Center of Tokyo, the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center, the Kennedy Center's Hall of States in Washington, D.C., and the Tampa Museum of Art. She is represented by the River Gallery in Chelsea, Michigan.

### **About the Michigan Artist Series**

Throughout its 100+ year history, the Grand Rapids Art Museum has featured the work of Michigan artists in its exhibition program. This tradition is now formalized into the Michigan Artist Series, to be presented in galleries throughout the Museum, which highlights the work of living artists or designers working in diverse media who reside in the state.

### **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.

**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.

*Re-Envisioning The Nutcracker*

On view November 20, 2014 through January 11, 2015. This holiday season brings the premiere of a brand new production of *The Nutcracker* by the Grand Rapids Ballet. Under the direction of Artistic Director Patricia Barker, the ballet will feature the creative vision of Chris Van Allsburg and Eugene Lee. GRAM's complementary exhibition provides a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of designing and staging the collaborative production. Items to be included are Chris Van Allsburg's original drawings for the set and production design, a scale model of the sets, and examples of the costumes designed by Patricia Barker.

*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*.

**Museum Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10am-5pm  
Thursday: 10am-9pm  
Sunday: 12pm-5pm  
Closed Mondays

**Museum 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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