



CONTACT

Natalie Thomas
Grand Rapids Art Museum
616-831-2917
nthomas@artmuseumgr.org

GRAM ANNOUNCES NEW LIVE ARTFULLY DINNER, HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DAVID AND JUDY FREY

First annual event on October 30, 2013; tickets available now!

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 17, 2013 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) presents its first Live Artfully Dinner on Wednesday, October 30, 2013—an annual event celebrating the vibrant culture of the West Michigan community, and the individuals whose leadership, support, and collaboration make this culture possible. The inaugural celebration honors David and Judy Frey for their longstanding and personal commitment to the arts and to advancing the Museum's American art collection.

Proceeds from the event will support the operational needs of the museum, and a portion of the proceeds will go toward the Museum's Acquisitions Fund, established to grow the museum's art collection. GRAM plans to host the Live Artfully Dinner each year going forward, celebrating art and those who help make Grand Rapids and West Michigan a vibrant arts and cultural community.

Guests will enjoy a celebration including cocktails, dinner, and a presentation with special guest speaker Ross Barrett, former David G. Frey Fellow in American Art at the University of North Carolina. Barrett will focus on 19th and early 20th century American art and visual culture.

Tickets

Tickets are available for \$250. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. To reserve tickets or sponsor the event, please contact Laura Bull at 616-831-2907 or lbull@artmuseumgr.org, or visit artmuseumgr.org/liveartfully

About David G. Frey

David G. Frey is a key leader in spearheading economic development in downtown Grand Rapids, believing the future of Grand Rapids to be "bright and filled with great expectation."

At the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Frey established the David G. Frey American Art Acquisition Fund in 1999 to help acquire works of American art for the collection.

Frey served as a GRAM Foundation Trustee until 2005, whereupon he was named Honorary Lifetime Trustee. He is currently a member of the Keeler Legacy Society, a group which recognizes the supporters who provide for the Museum's future with legacy gifts.

In a letter sent by David Frey on January 21, 2000, when establishing the Frey American Art Acquisition Fund at GRAM, he wrote:

"...I am hopeful that other individuals will be actively encouraged to consider similar gifts to ensure the stability and vitality of GRAM as it seeks to fulfill its potential to be one of the finest regional art museums in the country."

Event Schedule:

6:00 - Cocktails

7:00 - Dinner

8:00 – Program with special guest speaker Ross Barrett

About the speaker:

Ross Barrett

Assistant Professor of Art History

Department of Art

University of South Carolina

Ross Barrett, former David G. Frey Fellow at the University of North Carolina, specializes in 19th and early 20th century American art and visual culture. His research and teaching concentrate on the social and political implications of art and aesthetic theory, examining how American artists and aesthetic writers engaged political conflicts, economic bubbles and panics, violent strife, and struggles for cultural authority.

Host Committee Co-Chairs:

Sam and Janene Cummings

Learn more at artmuseumgr.org/liveartfully.

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 3,000 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.

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