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MICHIGAN ARTIST SERIES EXHIBITION, *HEATHER MCGILL: OBLIQUE ANGLE APPLIES THE MATERIALS OF INDUSTRY TO MODERN ART*

Exhibition on view April 26 through July 14, 2013

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 22, 2013 – GRAM's Michigan Artist Series continues with *Heather McGill: Oblique Angle*, an exhibition by Detroit-area artist Heather McGill, Head of the Sculpture Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art. McGill uses industrial materials (such as automotive paints) in her highly patterned wall-sculptures, creating a surface that shifts in appearance based on the different angles where the viewer stands. This exhibition officially begins Friday, April 26 with an opening night lecture at 7:00 p.m., and will be on view through July 14, 2013.

Inspired by Detroit's spirit of technological innovation, McGill's series of highly patterned wall sculptures and drawings applies the materials of industry to modern art. McGill draws inspiration from objects were never intended to be art objects—schematic diagrams that utilize a dramatic shift in scale, such as the instructional diagrams of a toy model of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module.

Heather McGill says of her work, “Recontextualization and scale shifting are methods I have used to question the criteria for establishing value and authority in culture.”

The exhibition consists of three large painted steel wall sculptures up to 65 inches in width, and four smaller, framed works that combine cut paper, paint, and steel. In addition to their distinctive shapes, each sculpture features a luminous, highly ornamental surface pattern. Specific sections on the pieces are sprayed with interference paints, developed in the 1960s for their ability to create color-shifting illusions triggered by movement and light. Standing in a fixed position, the viewer sees only a monochrome surface. The paint's effect is activated when the viewer moves to view the object at an oblique angle, suggesting a shift in our perceptual reality.

Heather earned an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, and has received multiple awards including a Kresge Artist Fellowship (2011), a Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Award (1999), and a Ford Foundation Grant (1984).

Opening night presentation – 7:00 p.m., Friday, April 26:

At 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26, McGill will discuss the subjects of fashion, perception, and the mass-produced object as it pertains to her recent sculptures and works on paper. Trained as a customizer, McGill uses automotive paints to create seamless surfaces that are activated by the relationship of the viewer to the object, movement, and light.

Lecture will be held in the auditorium. Admission is only \$5 after 5:00 p.m. This lecture is part of *Friday Nights at GRAM*—enjoy live piano music, grab a drink at the cash bar, and explore the galleries late into the evening. GRAM is open until 9pm on Friday nights.

Learn more about *Heather McGill: Oblique Angle* at artmuseumgr.org.

Heather McGill: Oblique Angle is organized by Cindy Buckner, Associate Curator at GRAM. The Museum is publishing a brochure with an essay by Buckner, available throughout the course of the exhibition.

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

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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