GRAM'S SUMMER EXHIBITION, CITIES IN TRANSITION, EXPLORES THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

This suite of exhibitions, on view at the Grand Rapids Art Museum June 1 - August 26, 2012, encourages open dialogue about how we can all make Michigan cities more livable, sustainable, and innovative.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 24, 2012 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum announces Cities in Transition, a suite of exhibitions on view this summer, June 1 through August 26, 2012. The exhibitions and related programs explore the many ways art, design, and history shape our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities—responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use—brings both challenges and opportunities.


Alongside these exhibitions, GRAM offers a variety of programming for all ages, including leadership conversations with urban innovators from Detroit and Grand Rapids, created in partnership with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and The Right Place, Inc. This series illuminates different aspects of urban transition and the people who have become catalysts for their city.

“Our focus this summer is the vitality of the urban center—past, present, and future,” said Dana Friis-Hansen, Director and CEO of the Grand Rapids Art Museum. “Through over 100 artworks and archival documents and nearly 50 public programs for summer campers, families, and adults, Cities in Transition positions the Museum as a platform for statewide dialogue about livable, sustainable, and innovative cities within Michigan, and beyond.”

Other programming includes a special Friday Night collaboration with UICA (Urban Institute for Contemporary Art), a Detroit-focused film series, hands-on family activities, urban photo walks and walking tours, docent-led tours of the exhibition, and more.

Learn more about the four exhibitions that comprise Cities in Transition below:

What Happened Here? GRAM, Ecliptic, and Rosa Parks Circle
This exhibition reveals the rich human and architectural history at this important Grand Rapids intersection, featuring photographs, architectural models, and accounts of the changing character at the location where the Museum and public park now provide a cultural and community focus. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Detroit: Then/Now/Next
Connecting Detroit’s rich urban architecture, design, and innovation history to its present and future, this exhibition presents case studies that illuminate the city’s unique strengths. The significance of the factory and assembly line, automotive design at mid-century, adaptive reuse of older buildings, and the repurposing of unused space are explored in historical documents and contemporary photographs. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

**Detroit Disassembled: Photographs by Andrew Moore**
These thirty monumental color photographs reveal the beauty and tragedy found in Detroit’s urban core. With emotional impact and unexpected visual splendor, this internationally-recognized photographer documents active neighborhoods, eerie abandoned structures, and nature’s resurgent power, illuminating the dilemmas and opportunities of the modern industrial city in transition. Organized by the Akron Art Museum.

**Perspectives on the City: Four Centuries of Drawings, Prints and Photographs**
Comprised of works from GRAM’s collection, this exhibition examines how artists have depicted their surroundings, and from the founding of the first cities recorded their experience of the urban environment. Featuring cities in the U.S., Europe, and Egypt depicted in a broad range of media, styles, and scales, the show includes picturesque renderings of ancient ruins, wide-angle panoramas of cities seen from a bird’s eye view, romanticized views of everyday scenes, and images documenting singular moments in the ever-changing life of cities. Beyond these traditional approaches, learn how artists have used the city as a setting for telling stories and as the basis for abstracted and imagined compositions. Organized by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

**Related Programming:**

**GRAM Member Preview: Cities in Transition**
7:00 - 9:00pm, 7:30pm lecture
GRAM Members can enjoy complimentary hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and a special presentation by Barbara Tannenbaum, Curator of Photography at the Cleveland Museum of Art. At 7:30pm, she will talk about working with Andrew Moore, the process of organizing the exhibition, and what the pictures reveal about the artist and his subject. (Not a Member? Visit artmuseumgr.org and become a GRAM Member today!)

**Cities in Transition: The After Party**
9:30pm - Midnight
Members free; $5 cover for Non-Members. Invite your friends! See new exhibitions and enjoy drinks and conversations at the Museum after hours. Experience the sights and sounds of a city in transition as the DJ Matt Poole and DJ Justin Weeks serve up the wide musical influences of Detroit.

**Making History: An Evening with Andrew Moore**
Thursday, June 21
Doors open/cash bar 6 pm, meet the artist
Book signing 6:30 pm, Lecture 7 pm
Members free, Non-members $5 admission

**Leadership Conversations**
Join urban innovators from Detroit and Grand Rapids in discussions about the changing dynamics of the city. Members free, Non-members $5 admission.

**Placemaking**
Tuesday, June 5, 5-7 pm
Learn about varying approaches to the planning, design, and management of engaging public spaces.
Evening moderated by Sam Cummings, Managing Partner, CWD Real Estate Investment
• Dan Carmody, President of Eastern Market Corporation
• Faye Nelson, President & CEO of Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
• Phillip Cooley, Owner of Slows Bar BQ / Ponyride

*Live/Work*
Tuesday, June 12, 5-7 pm
Learn about innovative efforts that link employment and residential revitalization.
Evening moderated by Eddie T.L. Tadlock, Assistant General Manager, DeVos Place/DeVos Performance Hall (SMG)
• Doyle Mosher, Founder of Challenge Detroit
• Susan Mosey, President of Midtown Detroit, Inc.
• Austin Black II, President/Broker at City Living Detroit

*Economic Redevelopment*
Tuesday, June 19, 5-7 pm
Learn about initiatives that build a sustainable financial future for Detroit.
Evening moderated by Birgit Klohs, President & CEO, The Right Place, Inc.
• George Jackson, President & CEO of Detroit Economic Growth Corporation
• David Egner, Executive Director of New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan and President & CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation
• David Blaskiewicz, President & CEO of Downtown Detroit Partnership and President of Invest Detroit

*GRAM + UICA Neighbors Night*
Friday, June 8, 7 pm
Gallery tour begins at UICA, and continues to GRAM
Members free, Non-members $5 admission

*Detroit Day Trips for GRAM Members*

Insider's Detroit: Saturday, June 16
Urban Art and Gardens: Friday, July 20
Fees apply; call 616-831-2912 for details.

*Docent-Led Tours of Cities in Transition*
Saturdays at 2 pm:

Saturday, June 2
Saturday, June 9
Saturday, July 14
Saturday, August 11
Saturday, August 25

*Detroit on Film: Then/Now/Next*
Film screenings Sundays at 2 pm and select Fridays at 7pm.

Sunday, June 10 - Urban Roots (2011)
Sunday, June 24 - Detroit: Remember When (1996)
Friday, June 29 - Lily's Detroit (2004)
Sunday, July 1 - Revenge of the Electric Car (2011)
Sunday, July 8 - Urban Roots (2011)
Sunday, July 22 - Detroit: Remember When (1996)
Sunday, July 29 - Revenge of the Electric Car (2011)
Sunday, August 5 - Urban Roots (2011)
Sunday, August 12 - Lily’s Detroit (2004)
Sunday, August 19 - Detroit: Remember When (1996)
Friday, August 24 - Urban Roots (2011)
Sunday, August 26 - Revenge of the Electric Car (2011)

Grand Rapids Walking Tours
Led by Gina Bivins, Grand Rapids Historical Society
Four different walks, followed by discussion at GRAM
August 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Photo Walks: Fridays at 7 pm
Tour the exhibition for inspiration, then explore the urban environment in downtown Grand Rapids. Bring your camera!
June 22 with Tommy Valdez
July 13 with Dianne Carroll Burdick
August 10 with Terry Johnston

Saturday All Day with the Arts
Art for families, 10 am - 3 pm every Saturday

June’s Theme: Shifting Gears
Discover the subtle beauty of Andrew Moore’s urban and industrial landscapes seen in Cities in Transition. Explore the ways that Detroit has developed through time with a mixed media collage inspired by shifts and changes of the city’s landscape.

July’s Theme: Flipping Through Time & Space
Transform your vision of the future into a colorful animation inspired by Cities In Transition. Assemble a flipbook that illustrates the changes that you imagine will take place in the world over the next 100 years.

August’s Theme: Cities Project
Experience the unique ways that artists understand and see cities. Draft your own future with a cityscape project inspired by the different views and landscapes seen in Cities In Transition.

Summer Art Camps
Summer Art Camps are exciting visual arts encounters offered to children ages 5-12. Each session allows campers to connect with original works of art, build their creative skills, and participate in a mini-exhibition at the end of the week.

Discovery Through Art
July 9-13, ages 5-7--SOLD OUT
July 16-20, ages 8-11
Our most popular camp is back with a whole new set of projects. Campers will experiment with a variety of media while being introduced to the Art Museum. Inspired by the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, children will use many techniques including sculpture, drawing, and painting. Each session will include time in the galleries and an activity to complement the day’s highlighted works of art.

Mechanics of Art
July 23-27, ages 7-11
Shift gears with a camp devoted to the city of Detroit. Create a life-sized city, make a model car, and participate in group activities inspired by Detroit: Then, Now, and Next. Campers will learn about Michigan's industrial past and predict the future with projects focusing on creating sustainable cities. Each day will include outdoor games, time in the galleries, and the opportunity to explore a variety of art techniques.

Collaborate and Create
July 30-August 3, ages 6-12
August 6-10, ages 6-12
Have a young child and an older sibling who both want to attend camp? Does your child want to do everything with their best friend? This is the camp for you! A wide range in ages allows for campers with different experience levels to create in the unique setting of the Art Museum. By participating in art projects that encourage working together, children will experience GRAM's collection and exhibitions while fostering social and team working skills.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free with admission.

For more information on the Cities in Transition exhibitions and programming, visit artmuseumgr.org, or call 616-831-1000.

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 3,500 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.