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SPECIAL ARTIST TALKS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

Two ArtPrize Artists Will Speak about their Work in Relation to 9/11 and Military History

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 2, 2011 – Two ArtPrize artists whose works of art explore themes of war and 9/11 will present individual "Artist Talks" at the Grand Rapids Art Museum on September 11, 2011. Guests will have an opportunity to learn more about the works of art and talk directly with the artists on a day of remembrance across America.

Both Artist Talks are in the Cook Auditorium and are free with Museum admission:

Barbara Koenen
2:00 – 2:30 pm

David Gillanders
2:30 – 3:00 pm

Barbara Koenen's work uses spices to recreate a 9/11 war rug in the tradition of Tibetan sand mandalas. Koenen was inspired by the rugs woven by tribal weavers from Afghanistan, which—since the Soviet invasion in 1979—have routinely reflected war and conflict in their design.

Koenen's GRAM installation, *The War Rug Project*, will feature her new 9/11 spice installation, along with several actual Afghan war rugs, and a series of spice monoprints from a 2006 installation that was part of Chicago's Silk Road Festival.

David Gillanders' work, *Tempus Fugit*, revisits a particularly dangerous flight by Gillanders' grandfather, who served in the Royal Flight Corps in France during World War I. After reading an entry about the flight in his grandfather's diary, Gillanders, his father, and his brother hired a small plane and retraced the flight route. *Tempus Fugit* is a collection of 25 oil paintings, the result of exploration of this intense moment in time. It is a combination of a study of perception with an intriguing and dramatic family and military story.

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.

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