MICHIGAN GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER VISITS THE GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

Snyder explores Cities in Transition, GRAM's summer exhibition that considers how we can all make Michigan cities more livable, sustainable, and innovative, on view until August 26

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 26, 2012 – Michigan Governor Rick Snyder visited the Grand Rapids Art Museum today, and experienced GRAM's summer exhibition, Cities in Transition—a suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs that explore the many ways art, design, and history shape our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment.

"We are excited Governor Snyder visited GRAM and made a point to see the exhibition," said GRAM Director and CEO, Dana Friis-Hansen. "Cities in Transition expands the statewide dialogue on how we can all make Michigan cities more livable, sustainable, and innovative, showcases how artists, designers, and entrepreneurs have historically played a role in the transition process, and encourages the community to participate in the conversation, as well."

Through Cities in Transition and the many related programs accompanying the exhibition, GRAM expands the conversation about Michigan cities, and has highlighted the involvement of artists, entrepreneurs, planners, and investors.

With only a few more weeks to view Cities in Transition, there are still several opportunities to attend docent-led tours, related films, hands-on family activities, an urban photo walk, and more. View more programming at artmuseumgr.org.

Cities on Transition is on view at the Grand Rapids Art Museum through August 26, 2012.

About Cities in Transition:
On view through August 26, 2012, this suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs explores the many ways art, design, and history shape our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insight into how the constant evolution of cities—responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use—brings both challenges and opportunities.

Exhibitions listed below; for additional programming, visit artmuseumgr.org.

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.

**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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