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ARTIST TONY ORRICO BEGINS SITE-SPECIFIC WORK IN GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM ON OPENING NIGHT OF ARTPRIZE SEPTEMBER 21

Four-Hour Installments over Three Days are Part of the Process of the Internationally Known Artist, the Performance is Live and Public is Welcome to Attend

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 18, 2011 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum will highlight the opening night of ArtPrize 2011 with the first of three installments by artist Tony Orrico. The title of the work is Penwald: 4: unison symmetry standing, 2010 and the site-specific work utilizes marker on wall. The opening night performance will begin at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2011.

Penwald Drawings are a series of bilateral drawings in which Tony Orrico explores the use of his body as a tool of measurement to inscribe geometries through movement and course. The master of each drawing is a conceptual score of Orrico's efficacious techniques, imposed variables, and specific durations and/or objectives. He performs his ideas live as a shared process that yields a unique impression or print of the original concept.

In Penwald: 4: unison symmetry standing, Orrico spontaneously explores the sphere of his outstretched arms. He commits his focus to the hemispheric balance of sound, friction, tension and initiation as his physical exhaustion heightens the experience. Orrico will continue the process for twelve hours total, with four-hour installments over three days.

The performance schedule is:

Wednesday, September 21: 6:00 to 10:00 pm
Thursday, September 22: 4:00 to 8:00 pm
Friday, September 23: 4:00 to 8:00 pm

The Grand Rapids Art Museum is an Official ArtPrize Exhibition Center and offers free admission during scheduled ArtPrize hours. Voter registration and activation is available at the Exhibition Center, along with ArtPrize merchandise. The Art Museum presents thirty-two artists and collaborators in its ArtPrize 2011 Exhibition.

About Tony Orrico

Tony Orrico is a visual artist, performer, and choreographer. His Penwald Drawings have been presented and exhibited internationally, attracting attention from prominent collectors and institutions. Orrico is a former member of Trisha Brown Dance Company and Shen Wei Dance Arts, and he was also one of a select group of artists to re-perform the work of Marina Abramovic during her retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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 authentic 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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