

For Immediate Release:**Contact:** Barbara Briggie-Smith

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Still from *Casablanca*, 1942

Des Moines, IA (August 2011) — The Des Moines Art Center, in partnership with Des Moines Park and Recreation, concludes its 2011 series of free films on the front lawn of the Art Center on Thursday, September 1 with *Casablanca* (1942, 102 minutes; rated PG). Directed by Michael Curtiz and starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid, *Casablanca* is one of the most memorable of all film experiences, and a true Hollywood legend. All the elements of the production—story, cast, photography, direction, and music—are expertly woven together to create a motion picture monument about true love, loyalty, and patriotism during World War II. The final airport sequence is a scene not to be forgotten.

In keeping with the theme of this classic movie, film-goers are invited to bring a Moroccan, Parisian, or 1940's-themed picnic basket; a prize will be awarded for the best themed basket. Contest will begin at 8 pm.

Guests are welcome to come early and bring lawn chairs. The Art Center is open until 9 pm on Thursday nights and admission is always free. All films start at dusk. (In case of rain, the film will be canceled; the Art Center will post updates on desmoinesartcenter.org.)

Next year's summer series of films will take place the first Thursdays in June, July, August, and September. The line-up will be announced in spring 2012.

For more information, contact Director of Events Debra Kurtz at 515.271.0336 or dkurtz@desmoinesartcenter.org.

Iowa Artists Matt Coronas and Matthew Kluber will also be giving a gallery talk September 1 in the Art Center lobby and Blank One Gallery at 6:30 pm. Associate Curator Laura Burkhalter and Director Jeff Fleming will also participate. The gallery talk will offer an insightful discussion of

these concurrent exhibitions through the voices of the artists. Coronas' exhibition will be on view in the I. M. Pei building and Art Center lobby through October 2 and Kluber's exhibition will be on view in Blank One Gallery through October 2.

Des Moines Art Center

Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Des Moines Art Center has amassed an important collection with a major emphasis on contemporary art. The collection's overriding principle is a representation of artists from the nineteenth century to the present, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an impressive collection that ranges from Edward Hopper's *Automat* to Jasper Johns' *Tennyson*, Henri Matisse's *Woman in White*, Georgia O'Keeffe's *From the Lake No. 1*, Francis Bacon's *Study after Velásquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Bill Viola's *Ascension*, and Cecily Brown's *Half-Bind*.

The Art Center's physical complex marries with the collection for a totally integrated experience. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a world-renowned architect - Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. With the exception of special events, admission to the museum is free.

In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn have provided funding for and donated 27 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Willem de Kooning, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Mark di Suvero, is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaboration of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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