

For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center receives grant award from Humanities Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA (August 2011) – The Des Moines Art Center has received a grant award of \$2,000 from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), in support of a project called “2011 Fall Lecture Series.” The series consists of three lectures.

On September 27 at 6:30 pm, the Art Center will present **Conversations on Art: Dario Robleto**. The museum’s presentation of *Dario Robleto: Survival Does Not Lie In The Heavens* will introduce the Midwest to a rising artist whose unusual artistic practices, and unpredictable use of natural and manmade materials, are garnering notable attention. This is the first survey exhibition to examine Robleto’s recent work dealing with the philosophical implications of longevity and extinction in contemporary society. Robleto will deliver an educational lecture and will welcome questions from the audience.

On October 13 at 6:30 pm, the Art Center will present **Talk + Music: Michael Lasser**. For 30 years, Michael Lasser, music historian, has been sharing popular music as social history at museums, universities, and art centers. His *Talk + Music* will be presented in concert with our upcoming exhibition, *Black White Gray Blue*. The exhibition, organized in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, will feature an unconventional mix of historical and contemporary prints. In response to the exhibition, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and the recent centennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, Lasser’s talk will be entitled “Roll It Along Thro’ the Nation: From Slave to Citizen in Popular Song,” which will highlight songs that portrayed blacks in the first half of the nineteenth century. The talk will also examine African-American music from the end of the century—ragtime, the blues, and jazz.

And on December 1 at 6:30 pm, Dr. Timothy Standring, Gates Foundation Curator of Painting and Sculpture, Denver Art Museum, will present a lecture entitled, “Becoming Van Gogh.” The lecture will be given in conjunction with the exhibition, *Vincent van Gogh and*

the Psychology of Portraiture, on view at the Art Center October 7, 2011 – January 15, 2012. Stranding's lecture will cover the provocative narrative of Van Gogh's life with an emphasis on the exciting evolution of the artist and the period in which Van Gogh becomes VAN GOGH. Dr. Stranding is a world-renowned scholar and connoisseur of old master paintings and has organized numerous blockbuster exhibitions for the Denver Art Museum including "Inspiring Impressionism" and "Sargent and Italy." His next major show focuses on none other than Vincent van Gogh. Five years in the making, "Becoming Van Gogh" will open at the Denver Art Museum in the fall of 2012.

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 Velázquez'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 - Eiel 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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