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For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center exhibition highlights work in the spirit of Louise Noun

DES MOINES, IOWA (May 2018) – On Saturday, June 9, the Des Moines Art Center will open *In the Spirit of Louise Noun*, which will be on view through September 2, 2018, in the Anna K. Meredith Gallery.

Many people in Des Moines remember or know about Louise Rosenfield Noun (1908-2002), who was a leader in the community as well as a feminist, civic and social activist, philanthropist, art historian, and collector of art. She was a dedicated leader at the Art Center as an active member of the Acquisitions Committee and the Board of Directors. In addition to her invaluable gift of guidance and time, she bequeathed the Art Center her collection of more than 200 works of art by women artists.

In the Spirit of Louise Noun does not exclusively feature work from Noun's collection. Instead, art selected from her collection is juxtaposed with other works of art that amplify the subjects and themes found in the work collected by Noun. In addition to placing works together to create lively conversations, the juxtapositions will illustrate how Noun's spirit is alive and well at the Art Center.



Deana Lawson (American, born 1979)
Wanda and Daughters, 2009
Inkjet print on paper
34 x 43 inches
Courtesy Sikkema Jenkins & Co., T.2018.200



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The exhibition was organized on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Young Women's Resource Center, for which Noun was the leading founder. Programs specifically for young women at the YWRC and Art Center will be incorporated into this exhibition. The artworks selected for the exhibition are meant to further the conversations young women have at the YWRC about body-image, self-esteem, and reproductive health. The works will represent and embody the beauty, resiliency, and strength that all women possess. These and other works will also address issues of social justice related to race, religion, gender, equity, and mortality, all issues in which Noun was invested. Learn more about the YWRC's 40th Anniversary at ywrc.org/40th.

In the Spirit of Louise Noun is organized by Director of Curatorial Affairs/Senior Curator Alison Ferris.

Related Programs

Exhibition Opening (in conjunction with *Sterling Ruby: Ceramics* opening)

Friday, June 8 / 5 – 7 pm

Complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres

*RSVP encouraged

Celebrating Louise Noun in Five Stories

Sunday, June 10 / 1:30 pm

Levitt Auditorium

Champagne reception to follow in lobby

*Reservations required

Featured speakers will be Amy N. Worthen, Des Moines Art Center curator of prints and drawings, emerita (Moderator); John Tinker, first-named petitioner and a namesake of the U.S. Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969); Rekha Basu, *The Des Moines Register* opinion columnist (Civil Liberties); Kären M. Mason, curator of the Louise Noun – Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries (Feminism); James T. Demetron, director of the Des Moines Art Center, 1969-1984 (Art); and Terry Hernandez, executive director, Chrysalis Foundation (Philanthropy).

Gallery Dialogue with Alison Ferris

Thursday, June 28 / 6:30 pm

Anna K. Meredith Gallery

***FREE reservations/RSVPs can be made by visiting desmoinesartcenter.org and clicking on EVENT RESERVATIONS.**

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, an AAM-accredited institution, has amassed an important collection with a



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major emphasis on contemporary art. The collection's overriding principle is a representation of artists from the 19th 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 provided funding for and donated 29 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Willem de Kooning, Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Yayoi Kusama, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, and Joel Shapiro 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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