

For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center exhibition focuses on issues of labor in *This Woman's Work*

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 2018) – On Friday, June 29, the Des Moines Art Center will open *This Woman's Work*, which will be on view through October 7, 2018, in the John Brady Print Gallery.

This exhibition explores images of women working through prints from various decades and centuries. Throughout art history, the female body has been a primary subject, presented in painting, sculpture, and photography as a vehicle for idealized beauty, grace, and desire — most often by white, heterosexual male artists. The lives of real women, from the models who posed for such artists, to the servants who worked in their homes, the merchants and sex workers they encountered in their daily lives, and even the mothers who raised them, only rarely appear in art and even then usually demonstrating romanticized versions of the labor actual women undertake.

Occasionally though, via artists of unique sensitivity or through the creations of women artists themselves, we are afforded more genuine images of working women and the diverse experiences they have to offer.

This Woman's Work is organized by Curator Laura Burkhalter.



Nicole Eisenman (American, born 1965)
Spring Cleaning, from "Art for Arts Sake Calendar 2000" (March), 1999
Mixed media on paper
20 1/4 x 14 3/4 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;
Gift of Zoe and Joel Dictrow, 2005.15.4



entirelyunexpected

Related Program

Gallery Dialogue with Laura Burkhalter

Thursday, July 19 / 7 pm

John Brady Print Gallery

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 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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