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For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center receives multi-year programming grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Des Moines, IA (January 2019) – The Des Moines Art Center is honored to receive a multi-year programming grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The \$100,000 grant will support the following 2019-2020 exhibitions: *Susan Collis: Without you the world goes on*, January 26 – May 12, 2019; *For Today I Am a Boy: Contemporary Queer Abstraction*, June 1 – September 8, 2019; *Monument Valley*, October 5, 2019 – January 12, 2020; *Karla Black*, February 8 – May 17, 2020; and *Justin Favela*, June 13 – September 13, 2020. The gift will support the exhibitions, the commission of new works of art, publications, and community programming associated with the exhibitions.

In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogues raisonnés projects. To date, the Foundation has given over \$200 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

According to Rachel Bers, Program Director, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, "In addition to being an important regional museum with a strong collection of modern and contemporary art, the Des Moines Art Center is also very much a site where artists and audiences come together to discuss the issues and urgencies of our time. We are very pleased to support its ambitious exhibition program that draws attention to positions and practices that have traditionally been marginalized in the contemporary art world."

"The Des Moines Art Center is honored to receive a multi-year programming grant from the Warhol Foundation in support of our 2019-2020 exhibitions. We are grateful for this acknowledgement of our efforts to create an inclusive and transformative platform to engage diverse communities through the art of our time."
Jeff Fleming, Director, Des Moines Art Center

"My curatorial colleagues, Laura Burkhalter and Jared Ledesma, and I are thrilled that the plans for our upcoming exhibitions have been honored with a grant from the Warhol Foundation. We're a new team committed to curating exhibitions that are as relevant to the contemporary art field as they are to Iowa. Our exhibitions will investigate pressing topics facing society today through contemporary art to advance inclusive cultural dialogues in the community. To this end, we will be collaborating with artists and creative thinkers who feature narratives and ideas other than those of the dominant culture in an effort to promote curiosity and embrace critical and empathetic thinking."

Alison Ferris, Director of Curatorial Affairs / Senior Curator, Des Moines Art Center



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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 30 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Ai Weiwei, 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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