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For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center invites visitors to interact with upcoming exhibition: *Selfie: Self Portraits From the Permanent Collection*

DES MOINES, IA (December 2015) On Friday, December 18, 2015, the Des Moines Art Center will open *Selfie: Self Portraits From the Permanent Collection*. The exhibition runs through April 24, 2016 in the Blank One Gallery.

Selfie: Self Portraits From the Permanent Collection considers both well-known and rarely seen self-portraits from the Art Center's permanent collections through the filter of popular culture's obsession with the "selfie." Works by Chuck Close, Otto Dix, Danny Lyon, Cindy Sherman, Anthony van Dyke, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Andy Warhol, among others, span the 17th century to the present.

Statistical sources online confirm that Instagram has more than 53 million photos tagged with the hashtag #selfie, while the word "selfie" was mentioned in Facebook status updates more than 368,000 times during a one-week period in October 2013, offering compelling statistical evidence of a fundamental human desire for self-representation.



See caption below



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Selfie invites viewers to become part of the exhibition by sharing their personal selfies to be displayed in the exhibition. Using the hashtag **#ArtCenterSelfie**, viewers may take a picture of themselves and post it to Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook and the Art Center will share them in the exhibition. Visitors are invited to be creative and include works in our permanent collections or feature a background in their own art community.

This exhibition was organized by former Senior Curator Gilbert Vicario, and Megan Cohen, assistant registrar/curatorial assistant.

RELATED PROGRAM

Gallery Talk

Thursday, March 24 / 6:30 pm

Megan Cohen will lead an informal discussion of the exhibition.

Left:

Anthony van Dyke (Flemish, active England, 1599 – 1641)

Self-Portrait, n.d.

Etching and engraving on paper

Sheet: 12 1/16 x 8 1/8 inches

Plate: 9 11/16 x 6 3/16 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 1950.169

Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

Right:

Cindy Sherman (American, born 1954)

Untitled Film Still #56, 1980

Black and white photograph

Frame: 13 1/2 x 16 x 1 1/4 inches

Image (visible): 6 3/4 x 9 1/4 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 1992.40

Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

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 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 have provided funding for and donated 28 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, Olafur Eliasson,

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Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, 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 was created in collaboration with the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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