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For Immediate Release

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Des Moines Art Center and Iowa International Center bring awareness to World Refugee Day

Des Moines, IA (June 2019) – In honor of World Refugee Day, observed annually on June 20, the Art Center and Iowa International Center present the following events that bring awareness to the plight of refugees throughout the world.

Self-Guided Tour of the Art Center's collection inspired by World Refugee Day, June 15 – 23, during regular museum hours*

Film screening: *Human Flow*, a film by renowned artist Ai Weiwei, June 17 / 7 pm

Panel discussion: "See Me, Hear Me: Stories of Refugees in Des Moines," June 20 / 7 pm

Self-Guided Tour

Art Center visitors may pick up a self-guided tour brochure highlighting a selection of works in the collection by artists who fled their native countries under duress and went on to create art that enriches and expands our human capacities for growth, curiosity and empathy.

Film Screening

Monday, June 17 / 7 pm

Human Flow, 2017

Ai Weiwei, director

2 hours 15 minutes / Rated PG-13

Levitt Auditorium / Free and open to the public

More than 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II. *Human Flow*, an epic film journey led by the internationally renowned artist Ai Weiwei, gives a powerful visual expression to this massive human migration. The documentary sheds light on both the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact.

Panel Discussion

"See Me, Hear Me: Stories of Refugees in Des Moines"

Thursday, June 20 / 7 – 8:30 pm

Levitt Auditorium / Free and open to the public

This moderated panel discussion highlights personal stories from refugees in Iowa. Audience members will hear about their journeys, challenges and triumphs, honoring them as contributors to the diversity of the state. These speakers bring awareness of the continual need to assist refugee populations coming to Iowa.

The panelists are Sue Moe, from the ethnic Karen community; Wasan Waham from Baghdad, Iraq; and Sharon Ndikurugamba, who was born in Rwanda and grew up in Kenya. The moderator is Claudia Schabel, President of Schabel Solutions, who has more than a decade of experience as a Diversity and Inclusion strategist for Fortune 100 and 500 companies.

For more information, visit desmoinesartcenter.org.



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* Museum Hours

Tuesday / Wednesday / Friday / 11 am – 4 pm

Thursday / 11 am – 9 pm

Saturday / Noon – 4 pm

Closed Monday

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 – 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 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.

Iowa International Center

Founded in 1938, the Iowa International Center is the state's oldest organization supporting immigrants, refugees and international visitors. Over the years, we have remained true to our commitment to connect people and change lives. As a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1938, IIC leads, teaches, connects and celebrates global culture in Iowa. The overarching impact of our work provides economic and cultural leadership resulting in Iowa being a more inclusive and welcoming place to live, work and raise a family. Core programs include services that remove language barriers for refugees and immigrants through interpretation, translation, and English language learning classes; international visitors programs; and the global dialogue series.

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