

MEDIA ALERT

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM TO JOIN IN ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS'

FIFTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ART MUSEUM DAY ON MAY 22, 2014

WITH FREE ADMISSION AND NUDE DRAWING IN THE GALLERIES

Worcester, MA, May 12, 2014 — The Worcester Art Museum (WAM) announced today that it will offer free admission on Thursday, May 22nd as part of the Association of Art Museum Directors' (AAMD) Art Museum Day, coinciding with International Museum Day. Last year, WAM - along with more than 170 other AAMD member museums across North America—participated in Art Museum Day.

Art Museum Day emphasizes the essential role that art museums play in their communities, highlights the value of the visual arts in society, and provides new opportunities for audiences to participate in the wide-ranging programs offered by AAMD member museums. This year, WAM is *presenting "Nude drawing in the Galleries"* from 2 – 5 pm. This is an ongoing moderated program that runs every Thursday at the Museum. WAM's nude model takes center stage among the old masters collection. Visitor can try their hand at drawing a live nude model with the guidance of our expert faculty among masterworks by Veronese, El Greco and Rembrandt. Drawing supplies are provided free of charge. Or, visitors can take time to visit the recently opened *Knights!* exhibition which offers a new look at the John Woodman Higgins Collection of arms and armor. WAM also invites visitors to share their experiences on Art Museum Day via social media with the hashtag #ArtMuseumDay.

"Art museums play a powerful role as community gathering places, bringing together people from all walks of life to experience the best of human creativity," said Chris Anagnos, Executive Director of AAMD. "AAMD is so pleased that WAM is joining us in this celebration by inviting everyone in the Worcester community to participate in Art Museum Day."

AAMD represents 240 art museums across the United States, Canada, and Mexico—from regional museums to large museums in major urban centers. International Museum Day is organized annually around the world by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). AAMD's Art Museum Day is an opportunity to focus attention on the role of art museums in North America, as part of ICOM's global celebration.

A comprehensive list of participating AAMD member art museums will be available on the AAMD website (<http://www.aamd.org/>). Note that while AAMD's Art Museum Day and ICOM's International Museum Day are formally held each year on May 18, some institutions shift their celebrations to adjacent dates.

ABOUT WAM:

Founded in 1898, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and its surrounding regional community. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European Renaissance paintings, but with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's *Venus Disarming Cupid*, it continues to diversify.

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