





## 2011 WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR THE DES MOINES ART CENTER.

The institution continued to add vibrancy to the city of Des Moines and the metro region not only in real economic terms, with approximately one quarter of its visitors coming from outside of the metro, but also in terms of creating a community where people want to live, work, and raise a family, and where businesses want to locate and grow.

Admission to the Art Center remains free as we continue to strive to achieve our mission of making the art of our time accessible to everyone. Our total number of annual visitors included 20,155 tour participants of which 6,523 represented every fourth grader in Des Moines, Indianola, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Waukee, and West Des Moines Public School Districts.

Our outreach efforts reached 21,014 individuals, from at-risk youth in the District Wide Classroom program to Alzheimer's residents at a local senior community. Our Studio Programs Department again had more than 3,000 student participants with 10% participating through scholarships. Through our off-site projects, such as the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, we added many thousands more to these numbers. The Art Center and the City of Des Moines opened the sculpture park in September 2009 with 25 works of art. We added two more sculptures in the two years since it opened, and we have witnessed the park become an iconic image for the metro.

Our first exhibition of 2011 presented the work of German artist Anselm Reyle in his first one-person museum exhibition in the United States. The project was featured on the cover of the April issue of *Art in America* magazine as well as in an extended article. Our last show of the year, featuring the work of Dario Robleto, was named the "Best Show of 2011 that New Yorkers Won't See," by *Guernica* magazine. Our acquisition of Yoshitomo Nara's *White Ghost* sited in the Pappajohn Sculpture Park was named one of the top 20 museum acquisitions of the year by *Antiques & Fine Art* magazine. Other acquisitions of note were a print by Vincent van Gogh, entitled *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*, 1890, the artist's only etching; a large cast aluminum sculpture by Anselm Reyle; and a major John Storrs bronze from 1920. Thus, we continue to add to the permanent collection in meaningful ways.

The Art Center completed many building renovations and additions in 2011. We added a new 9,600 square-foot Museum Services Center that provides needed storage and work space, and a new vault. In addition, we replaced old boilers and chillers, the roofs over all of the facility, and added new flooring, lighting, and windows throughout the buildings.

And, notably in 2011, the Art Center solidified its new brand — Entirely Unexpected — and we are infusing this kind of thinking in all of our programming, marketing, and development efforts.

Check us out and visit us often.

JEFF FLEMING  
DIRECTOR

WOODY BRENTON  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES / 2010 – 2011

LEFT Visitors to the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park view *Spider* by Louise Bourgeois (American, born France 1911–2010).  
COVER Visitors view one of the works of art from the *Anselm Reyle* exhibition.

The Art Center's 2011 exhibition schedule presented an array of one-person and group exhibitions that featured the art of our time as well as historical projects that informed or fused with contemporary expression. Several shows were an artist's first one-person museum exhibition in the United States, while others highlighted new approaches to an artist's body of work. Many featured artwork from the permanent collection.

**Our first exhibition of 2011, ANSELM REYLE was featured on the cover of the April issue of *Art in America* magazine.**



#### **ANSELM REYLE**

Anna K. Meredith Gallery  
January 28 – April 17, 2011

#### **1911**

Print Gallery  
January 28 – May 22, 2011

#### **OFF GUARD: STREET PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION**

Blank One Gallery  
March 4 – May 22, 2011

#### **SURFACE VALUE**

Anna K. Meredith Gallery  
May 6 – September 4, 2011

#### **THE FASHION SHOW**

Print Gallery  
May 27 – September 18, 2011

#### **IOWA ARTISTS 2011**

Blank One Gallery and Lobby

#### **Stephanie Brunia**

June 3 – August 7, 2011

#### **Matt Corones**

August 12 – October 2, 2011

#### **Matthew Kluber**

August 12 – October 2, 2011

#### **DARIO ROBLETO:**

#### **SURVIVAL DOES NOT LIE IN THE HEAVENS**

Anna K. Meredith Gallery  
September 23, 2011 – January 15, 2012

#### **BLACK WHITE GRAY BLUE**

Print Gallery  
September 23, 2011 – February 5, 2012

#### **VINCENT VAN GOGH AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PORTRAITURE**

Blank One Gallery  
October 7, 2011 – February 5, 2012

#### **SINGLE-CHANNEL 2: MELODRAMA**

Lower Meier video gallery

#### **Jesper Just**

February 4 – May 1, 2011

#### **Kalup Linzy**

May 6 – July 31, 2011

#### **Christopher K. Ho**

August 5 – October 30, 2011

## "Best Show of 2011 that New Yorkers Won't See."

*Guernica* magazine's review of **DARIO ROBLETTO: SURVIVAL DOES NOT LIE IN THE HEAVENS**



The Art Center added 29 works of art to the permanent collections in 2011. Highlights included major works of art by established modern and contemporary masters as well as intimate works by relatively unknown historical figures. Each added significantly to our holdings and to our ability to make the art of our time accessible to broad audiences.



**FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES**

(American, 1958–1996)

**Untitled** 1995 (LEFT)

Silver plated brass, 16 1/2 x 33 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;  
Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc. and with funds from an anonymous donor; Mr. and Mrs. Myron N. Blank; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bohlen; Byron Ben Boyd; Julian and Irma Brody; Mrs. E. Brown; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ankeny Brown in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Warren Brown; Mrs. W.B. Chase, Sr.; Mrs. K. A. Chittick; Nathan Emory Coffin; C. Christopher Conn Memorial Fund; Gardner and Florence Call Cowles Foundation; John and Elizabeth Bates Cowles; L. Cross; Des Moines Association of Fine Arts; Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch; Kenneth E. Hartman in memory of Elsie Bloom Hartman; Kenneth L. Haynes; estate of Dr. W.B. Hight; Alice Sprague Johnson Memorial Fund; estate of Mark L. Johnson; Elizabeth Kirk Memorial Fund; Dwight Kirsch for the Truby Kelly Kirsch Memorial Collection; Florence Cowles Kruidenier; Robert and Harriette Lubetkin; Ellen Maytag Madsen; Mary Mattern in memory of Karl Mattern; Irwin McFadden; James B. Morrison Memorial Fund; Louise R. Noun; Dr. Maurice H. Noun; William W. and Edith King Pearson; Henrietta Pfeifer; Anne K. Poor; G.V.A. Roling; Rose F. Rosenfield; estates of William E. and Mattie M. Tone; Florence Weaver; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weeks; Hanford Yang; and the Younker Purchase Fund by exchange, 2011.1

**JOHN BRADLEY STORRS**

(American, 1885–1956)

**Seated Gendarme/The Abbot** 1920

(SEE PAGE 6)

Bronze, 16 x 7 x 12 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;  
Gift of Jim and Helen Hubbell, 2011.2

**ANSELM REYLE**

(German, born 1970)

**Untitled** 2010 (SEE PAGE 7)

Cast aluminum, chrome optics, patina

95 1/4 x 75 3/16 inches

Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2011.3

**VINCENT VAN GOGH**

(Dutch, 1853–1890)

**Portrait of Dr. Gachet (L'Homme à la Pipe)** May 25, 1890 (LEFT BELOW)

Etching on paper

13 7/8 x 10 3/8 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Mildred M. Bohlen Deaccession Fund and funds given by Harriet S. Macomber in memory of J. Locke Macomber, 2011.4



ABOVE LEFT Felix Gonzalez-Torres *Untitled*, 1995

LEFT Vincent van Gogh *Portrait of Dr. Gachet (L'Homme à la Pipe)*, May 25, 1890

RIGHT Yoshitomo Nara *White Ghost*, 2010

**YOSHITOMO NARA**

(Japanese, born 1959)

**White Ghost** 2010 (RIGHT)

Painted stainless steel and fiberglass

12 x 12 feet

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Purchased with funds from

John and Mary Pappajohn, 2011.5

**ALISON ELIZABETH TAYLOR**

(American, born 1974)

**The Breeder** 2009–2010 (SEE PAGE 6)

Wood veneer, shellac

56 x 45 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Purchased with funds from

the Ellen Pray Maytag Madsen Sculpture

Acquisition Fund, 2011.6

**DIETER ROTH**

(Swiss, 1930–1998)

**Gerissener Hase** 1990

Screen-printing on white card

27 5/8 x 39 1/2 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Purchased with Director's

Discretionary Fund, 2011.7

**LUTHER UTTERBACK**

(American, 1947–1997)

Untitled from the series,

**"Dream Project"** c. 1996

Acrylic on silk, 43 x 32 1/2 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Gift of Meredith Saunders,

2011.8

**ANNE ALLEN**

(French, 1748–after 1808)

**Chinese Arabesque with a Double**

**Parasol, from the series "Nouvelle**

**suite de cahiers arabesque chinois**

**à l'usage des dessinateurs et des**

**peintres (New Suite of Notebooks**

**of Chinese Designs for the use of**

**Designers and Painters)"** c.1795

Color etching from two plates inked

à la poupée in gray, blue, blue-green,

olive-green, red, orange, and brown, on

pale blue-green plate toned laid paper

7 11/16 x 5 9/16 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Gift of the Des Moines

Art Center Print Club, 2011.9

**JULES KIRSCHENBAUM**

(American, 1931–2000)

**Kabbalah** 1981–82

Egg tempera on panel

31 1/2 x 51 1/8 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;

Bequest of Henry Ward Ranger through the

National Academy of Design, 2011.10

**DARIO ROBLETTO**

(American, born 1972)

**The Sky, Once Choked With Stars,**

**Will Slowly Darken (Nelson)** 2011

Archival digital print, 8 x 8 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent

Collections; Gift of the Des Moines

Art Center Print Club, 2011.11

The Art Center's acquisition of Yoshitomo Nara's *White Ghost* sited in the Pappajohn Sculpture Park was named one of the top 20 museum acquisitions of the year by *Antiques & Fine Art* magazine.





John Bradley Storrs *Seated Gendarme/The Abbot*, 1920



Alison Elizabeth Taylor *The Breeder*, 2009–2010

**JAMES GOBEL** (American, born 1972)  
**The Problem of Leisure, What to do For Pleasure** 2011  
Felt, yarn, and acrylic on canvas  
108 x 132 inches  
Each canvas: 108 x 66 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the artist, 2011.12

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Salus Infirmarum (Health of the Sick)** 1922  
Etching on paper, 8 7/8 x 7 5/8 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.13

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Trace Horse** 1921  
Etching on paper, 6 5/8 x 8 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.14

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Horse of Ostend** 1921  
Etching on paper, 5 7/8 x 7 5/8 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.15

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Plough and Jackdaw** 1922  
Etching on paper, 5 1/4 x 7 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.16

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Before Mass** 1926  
Etching and engraving on paper  
4 7/8 x 4 7/16 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.17

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Comare Giulia (honorific for women)** 1924  
Engraving on paper, 4 1/4 x 4 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.18

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Deer** 1929  
Engraving on paper, 8 7/8 x 11 1/2 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.19

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Portrait of a Lady (Grace Griffith)** 1929  
Engraving on paper, 8 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.20

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Portrait of a Lady (Grace Griffith)** 1929  
Engraving on paper, 8 x 6 13/16 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.21

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Portrait of a Lady (Grace Griffith)** 1929  
Engraving on paper, 7 7/8 x 6 1/2 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.22

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Man with a Scythe** 1932  
Engraving on paper, 5 3/8 x 4 3/8 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.23

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Mask** 1933  
Engraving on paper, 8 x 7 1/4 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.24

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Girl on Stairs** 1937  
Engraving on paper, 7 3/8 x 6 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.25

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**The Letter** 1937  
Engraving on paper, 5 3/8 x 4 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.26

**ROBERT AUSTIN** (British, 1895–1973)  
**Mason of Canterbury** 1948  
Engraving on paper, 7 7/8 x 5 1/2 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Clare Calder and Rachel Austin, 2011.27

**PAT STEIR** (American, born 1938)  
**Kyoto Chrysanthemum** 1982  
26 color woodcuts on paper  
14 1/2 x 20 1/2 inches  
Des Moines Art Center; Paul and Anastasia Polydorou Collection, 2011.28

**NATHAN OLIVEIRA** (American, born 1928)  
**Woman, State III** 1971  
Lithograph on paper, 30 x 22 1/2 inches  
Des Moines Art Center; Paul and Anastasia Polydorou Collection, 2011.29

RIGHT Anselm Reyle *Untitled*, 2010



## TOURS

The Art Center is proud to announce that 20,155 people were served by the tour program in 2011. As part of the total, nearly 4,800 people toured the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

Included among the thousands of people participating in guided tours were more than 6,500 fourth grade students from Des Moines, Indianola, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Waukee, and West Des Moines Public School Districts. The Art Center covers the cost of transportation for these districts through the generous support of Bankers Trust Company; Hy-Vee, Inc.; John Deere Des Moines Operations; MetLife Foundation; American Enterprise Group, Inc.; West Bancorporation Foundation; and Target.

Guided tours engage people of all ages in conversations about the collection, exhibitions, and architecture, and empower visitors by teaching them strategies to interpret art objects on their own. Guided tours were led by 45 active, specially trained volunteer docents. The Art Center's team of docents collectively donated more than 3,800 hours of service in 2011, including touring and training. A couple of highlights during the spring term included a field trip to St. Louis and an illuminating panel discussion called "Inside Today's Art World" about the contemporary art market with several guest participants: Alex Brown, artist; Andrew Rafacz, owner of Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago; Jeff Fleming, Art Center Director; Mary Pappajohn, collector and philanthropist; Laura Paulson, Christie's Deputy Chairman of Contemporary Art; and Gilbert Vicario, Art Center Senior Curator.

In September 2011, a class of 20 candidate docents began their training to join the ranks of the Art Center's Docent Program.

**This year saw 20,155 visitors participate in the tours program led by 45 volunteer docents, and attend 8 lectures and 11 exhibition gallery talks, representing a 43% increase in gallery talk attendance.**

## LECTURES AND GALLERY TALKS

Eight lectures were presented at the Art Center in 2011 serving 909 people. The most popular lectures of the year focused on the remarkable new acquisition, Vincent van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*. In late August, Curator of Prints and Drawings Amy N. Worthen reprieved the presentation that she delivered to the Acquisitions Committee of the Board of Trustees in April 2011 for a behind-the-scenes look at the acquisition process. Attendees of the lecture departed with expert knowledge about the only etching Vincent van Gogh ever made, and his brief, but important relationship with the subject of the portrait, Dr. Paul-Ferdinand Gachet. The second Van Gogh lecture was presented in early December by Dr. Timothy Standring, Gates Foundation Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Denver Art Museum. Drawn from Dr. Standring's ongoing curation of an exhibition of the same name, "Becoming VAN GOGH" provided audiences with another behind-the-scenes talk about the challenges and rewards of mounting an exhibition on one of the world's most famous artists. Along the way, Standring also provided valuable insight into the formal properties of Van Gogh's oeuvre and hypothesized about the period in which Van Gogh became VAN GOGH. Also focusing on the Art Center's permanent collection was a duet of lectures about the paintings and legacy of Henry Ossawa Tanner. The Art Center was fortunate in procuring guest lecturer Dr. Rae Alexander-Minter, the grandniece of the artist, who spoke about her famous uncle. Shortly thereafter, Anna Marley, Curator of Historical American Art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, was a guest at the museum and talked about the Tanner retrospective being organized by PAFA, to which the Art Center agreed to lend four paintings. Finally, the Art Center drew large audiences to hear artists Anselm Reyle and Dario Robleto deliver lectures in conjunction with their respective solo exhibitions.

Eleven gallery talks were offered through the year serving 492 visitors, representing a 43% increase over 2010. Highlights each year are the gallery talks that feature Iowa's artists and 2011 was no exception. The 2011 Iowa artists were Stephanie Brunia, Matt Coronas, and Matthew Kluber. Each of the gallery talks were packed to the brim with families and friends of the artists, as well as general art enthusiasts.

## FILMS

Fourteen films were presented at the Art Center in 2011, with 1,575 people attending. Once again, the film festivals were among the most popular events. Making its 11th appearance in Des Moines, the Black Maria Film Festival was at capacity for both of the unique screenings. For the second year in a row, the Manhattan Short Film Festival drew a standing-room only crowd. This festival presents 10 short films to audiences around the world for one week only. Audiences vote on their favorite films at the conclusion of each screening, votes are tabulated, and a grand prize winner is announced. While Des Moines' pick matched the overall favorite in 2010, Art Center votes did not mirror the winner in 2011.

Two interpretative film series were presented in concert with exhibitions: a three-part film series chosen by the three artists in the exhibition *Surface Value*, with the criteria being that the films informed their work in some way; and a four-part series curated by Dario Robleto to accompany his exhibition, with each film chosen to highlight a very particular aspect of Robleto's work.

LEFT Artist Dario Robleto leads a gallery talk about his exhibition *Survival Does Not Lie In The Heavens*.

RIGHT More than 6,500 fourth grade students participated in docent-led Art Center tours this year.





## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**University of Iowa Students meet Anselm Reyle**

In January 2011, Anselm Reyle traveled to the University of Iowa to meet with 25 graduate painting and sculpture students at Studio Arts Hall. While there, Reyle talked with the students not only about the artwork featured in his solo exhibition at the Art Center, but also about how he broke into the art world, how his studio operates, and his current projects happening around the globe. All students were invited to bring an example of their own work to the informal colloquium, and Reyle then offered the students a critique of their work.

Following the meeting in Iowa City, 15 University of Iowa students traveled to Des Moines to attend the sold-out public interview between Reyle and Art Center Director Jeff Fleming. The students stayed the night in Des Moines and toured Reyle's exhibition the following morning.

**Merrill Middle School's Sisters for Success students talk with Dr. Rae Alexander-Minter about "Exceptional Women"**

Dr. Rae Alexander-Minter, grandniece of the famous American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner, visited Des Moines in early February 2011 to give a public lecture about her granduncle in support of a small exhibition featuring five of the artist's paintings. While in Des Moines, Dr. Alexander-Minter, an accomplished woman in her own right, also met with 17 teenage girls at Merrill Middle School who were participants in the *Sisters for Success* program. Dr. Alexander-Minter spoke only briefly about her granduncle, instead focusing her comments on "exceptional women," and specifically the women in her family who always set a high bar and achieved success in their lives and careers, often being the first African-American women to do so. Dr. Alexander-Minter's words were not only inspirational, but also offered practical advice on how these contemporary young women could align themselves for success. *Sisters for Success* is a mentorship program for African-American middle school and high school girls with the purpose of building self-esteem and fostering academic success.

**Dario Robleto presents "Materialist Poetry" seminar for Drake University students**

*Materialist Poetry* was a rare opportunity for a dozen art history, studio art, and English students attending Drake University to learn from Dario Robleto, one of the most compelling visual artists working today, and whose solo exhibition, *Survival Does Not Lie In The Heavens*, was presented at the Art Center in the fall. This related three-session seminar focused on issues surrounding the role of language, research, DJ culture, and science, as pertain to an artist's studio practice. Each session was dialogue- and issues-based and emphasized establishing a process for the creation of one's art. The students came to understand what Robleto referred to as "historical empathy" and how to find "truth" in what one creates.

**High School Days**

In conjunction with the exhibitions *Anselm Reyle* and *Dario Robleto: Survival Does Not Lie In The Heavens*, 10 area high schools, totaling 240 students, participated in High School Days. This program involves an interactive tour of an exhibition and the Art Center's permanent collection, and an art project related to the exhibition. The students created paint-by-numbers pieces based on Reyle's painting *Little Yorkshire*, 2010, and reinterpreted a vinyl album cover based on Robleto's *Tales of Theodicies*, 2010.

**4-H Students experience *Surface Value***

Thirty-five students attending the annual 4-H Youth Conference in Ames traveled to Des Moines in the summer to take part in a tour and art project presented in conjunction with the *Surface Value* exhibition. The students toured the exhibition and the permanent collection and then created projects using materials featured in Mickalene Thomas' paintings.

RIGHT High School Days participants reinterpreted a vinyl album cover based on Dario Robleto's *Tales of Theodicies*, 2010.

**Varied and exceptional programs, including artist Anselm Reyle's discussion with University of Iowa students, enriched the lives of students from all over central Iowa.**





## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### smART Second Saturdays

On the second Saturday of each month, the Art Center offered the FREE smART program to families with children of various ages. The program aimed to create experiences that engaged families through various museum related topics, such as treasure hunts, sketching in the galleries, and learning about a specific artist. Over 90 children and adults participated in this program in 2011.

## OUTREACH

### Public Radio personality visits Des Moines twice in 2011 and reaches hundreds

Michael Lasser, music historian and host of National Public Radio's *Fascinating Rhythm*, presented a suite of lectures to Des Moines audiences in mid-February and then again in October 2011. For the winter visit, Lasser was invited to deliver a presentation celebrating the centennial of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in connection with the Art Center's Print Gallery exhibition, *1911*. In addition to speaking to a public audience of 100 people at the Art Center, Lasser also gave two outreach presentations to residents at Calvin Community and Wesley Acres Retirement Community reaching nearly 140 residents. Rapt attention was given to Lasser in each program as audiences listened to (and often sang) the lyrics to "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Most importantly, Lasser explained how this song changed Americans' taste in popular songs by abandoning the prescribed structure of verse, chorus, verse, chorus. . . in favor of having a call to action, such as "Come on and Hear!" which emphasized an emotion or a fleeting moment, over telling a complete story.

The fall visit was in concert with the Print Gallery exhibition, *Black White Gray Blue*, a show featuring both historical and contemporary artworks drawn from the permanent collection, and organized to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War (1861–1865). Here, Lasser's three performances traced the treatment of black people in popular music from the second half of the 19th century through African-American music at the end of the 20th century—ragtime, blues, and jazz. In addition to the public lecture, outreach lectures were held at Beaverdale Estates and Wesley Acres Retirement Community, extending our programming efforts to 75 people in Des Moines.

Stan Miller, Art Center docent, delivered 11 lectures at area senior living facilities and social organizations reaching more than 340 people. An additional 10 off-site presentations were made around the metro by Museum Education staff serving over 400 people.

## STUDIO PROGRAMS

Classes, workshops, and day camps enriched the lives of 3,118 children and adults who took part in art instruction in 2011. A total of 337 classes, workshops, and day camps were offered during the year. Attendance for these programs totaled 16,065. Scholarships provided 247 children and adults with the opportunity to attend classes. Additional studio classes engaged 135 participants from middle school students at St. Augustin Catholic School and elementary students who belong to Junior Council. The attendance for these programs totaled 2,049.

Visiting Artist Tracy Duran taught District Wide Classroom (Children and Families of Iowa) students for 27 sessions during the school year. Callanan artists and Merrill artists each met with her for eight sessions. Des Moines University students studied figure drawing with her for 10 sessions. Youth Emergency Services and Shelter children enjoyed 17 sessions of art experiences under her direction. Oakridge Neighborhood children met with Duran on projects related to art and literacy for eight sessions. Over the course of five sessions, Duran guided residents at Luther Park Trinity Center through a project in conjunction with the *Dario Robleto* exhibition. These projects touched 98 students. The attendance for these projects totaled 1,014.

Outreach instructors taught art to a total of 122 participants enrolled in the Johnston Community Education summer program, Uncle Sam's Daycare, Norwalk High School raku workshop, Casady Alternative Center, Mercy College, and Mentor Iowa children and mentors. Attendance totaled 217. Instructors were sent to Holy Family School, Holy Trinity School, Science Center of Iowa iEARTH, Rose Festival, International Migratory Bird Day, and Greater Des Moines Business Exchange. Attendance at these programs totaled 141.

**Classes, workshops, and day camps enriched the lives of 3,118 children and adults.**





# AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Audience Engagement was busy in 2011 with many innovative events intended to bring new audiences to the Art Center. A series of “Unexpected Events” brought numerous people to the Art Center for the first time.



**GROUP TANGO DANCE LESSONS** attracted 130 people in February.



Yoga lessons in the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in the summer attracted a number of workers from downtown.



More than 500 visitors attended a **MAD HATTER TEA PARTY** complete with storytelling, hat making, and a parade in the lobby.

The annual **DAY OF THE DEAD** celebration brought record crowds of more than 2,500 visitors to the Art Center.



**ART KNIT LACE** highlighted lace in art and the art of making lace.

**PREVIEW PARTIES** for exhibitions attracted nearly 900 guests who socialized, learned about the art, and met the artists.



More than 400 people attended a fundraiser in the new vault, which raised nearly \$50,000.



A big movie on the lawn was the original “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.” Five children won golden tickets to tour Suzette Homemade Candies.

October saw the screening of two classic “Frankenstein” films.



**ALL THINGS WINTER** in December was a huge success, drawing over 1,000 people who participated in winter-related festivities throughout the Art Center. A team of sled dogs on the front lawn provided an unexpected attraction.



Working in conjunction with Des Moines Park and Recreation, movies were once again shown on the front lawn of the Art Center during the summer months. A big hit was the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Five children won golden tickets to tour Suzette Homemade Candies on Ingersoll Avenue. Here, they and their parents actually made mints and chocolate candy bars — an exciting experience for all involved.

Thousands of Des Moines Arts Festival visitors participated in building the city's largest ice cream cone out of plastic bags in downtown Des Moines. Organized by the Art Center, the Arts Festival Art Activity is annually one of the biggest hits of the festival.

The Art Center also collaborated with Des Moines Park and Recreation in August to host a celebration of the Rose Garden in Greenwood Park with various art activities, refreshments, and entertainment.

With the addition of a new vault for the storage of artwork, a plan for a fundraiser was devised: international and area artists were asked to contribute works of art for a silent auction to be held in the vault. This would be the only time the public would be allowed in the vault. The Art Center had a tremendous response from artists and received more than 100 works of donated art. More than 400 people attended the event and nearly \$50,000 was raised.

The annual gala, held in September, honored Melva Bucksbaum for her generous involvement with the Art Center over the years. The gala began with a cocktail party on the grass roof of the new Museum Services Center. Billed "Posh Picnic," the event was chaired by Kimberly and Craig Shadur (President of the Art Center's Board of Trustees, 2006–2007). A beautiful tent with white glowing chandeliers and gourmet picnic baskets created a memorable evening for more than 250 guests who danced the evening away.

Preview parties for exhibitions attracted nearly 900 guests, and provided not only a social setting but also a venue for meeting artists and learning more about their work.

Rentals continued to draw both corporate and private clients. Wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, and corporate events were booked many weekends in 2011. Wells Fargo, Greater Des Moines Partnership, and Pella Corporation were a few of the corporate clients. A civic rental was held for Des Moines Water Works, and a reception was held to present the vision of the five architects who were the finalists in the competition to renovate the park at Water Works. More than 150 people attended both events.

## MEMBERSHIP

An increase in membership overall in 2011 is credited to an increase in both the quality and number of programs, and expanded member benefits. 2011 was a record year for the member affiliate group Art Noir. In its fifth year, the group's membership grew rapidly to over 250 members, in part thanks to successful events like the Big Hair Ball, staged every two years, and new events like HUE. Art Noir also organized dinners with two exhibiting artists in *Surface Value*, James Gobel and Allison Elizabeth Taylor, and collaborated with community



Art Center staff and volunteers help to build a 45-foot ice cream cone.

partners on entirely unexpected events like Pecha Kucha Night, which drew more than 200 attendees.

Print Club celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2011. The Print Club membership continued its tradition of enhancing the Art Center's permanent collections by establishing an annual print conservation gift to the Des Moines Art Center in its bylaws.

And finally, in 2011 the Art Center expanded its offerings to members with the addition of the Members' Book Club. Under the guidance of Museum Education Director Jill Featherstone and docent Kim Finley, the Book Club began meeting monthly, September through June, to discuss readings related to current exhibitions and the permanent collections.

## MUSEUM SHOP

The Museum Shop experienced its highest retail sales volume in the history of the museum. The shop continued to sell a wide range of unique and unexpected merchandise, including books, children's toys, home décor, jewelry, accessories, catalogs, and items related to the museum's exhibitions and collections.

The 2011 gala honoring Melva Bucksbaum began with a cocktail party on the grass roof of the new Museum Services Center.



Thank you to the following donors who have made significant financial contributions to the Des Moines Art Center over the past 25 years. Gifts were contributed to Art Center campaigns, the free admission program, annual operating support, conservation, art acquisition, programs, and more.

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 Butler House on Grand  
 Capital 106.3  
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 The Des Moines Register  
 Essman Companies  
 Iowa Public Radio  
 Kitchen Collage of Des Moines, Inc.  
 Elvin D. McDonald and John Zickefoose  
 Stanley Miller  
 Anastasia Polydorou  
 Erin Herndon Salmon and Eric Salmon  
 Suites of 800 Locust  
 Taste! To Go  
 Vincent Valdez

## REVENUE

Endowment and trust income	\$2,464,439
Memberships, contributions, and grants	1,321,647
Audience Engagement	415,446
Studio Programs	307,581
Retail Operations	204,206
Other	304,400

**Total Revenue 5,017,719**

## EXPENSES

Personnel	2,586,445
Facilities and Security	808,812
Collections, exhibitions, and works of art	652,174
Membership and Development	206,311
Administration	193,840
Audience Engagement	158,090
Retail Operations	124,330
Marketing	114,486
Education	103,794
Other	59,983

**Total Expenses 5,008,265**

**Revenues over Expenses \$ 9,454**

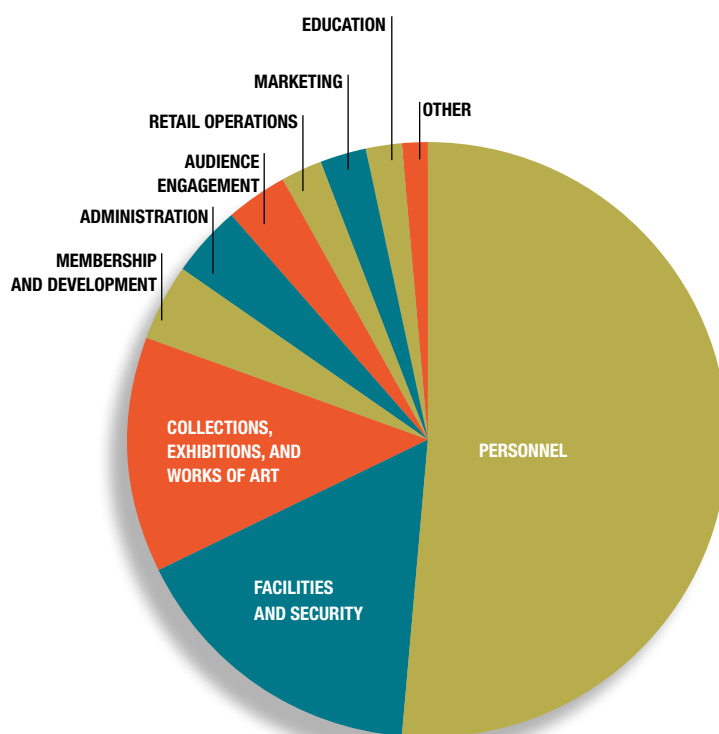
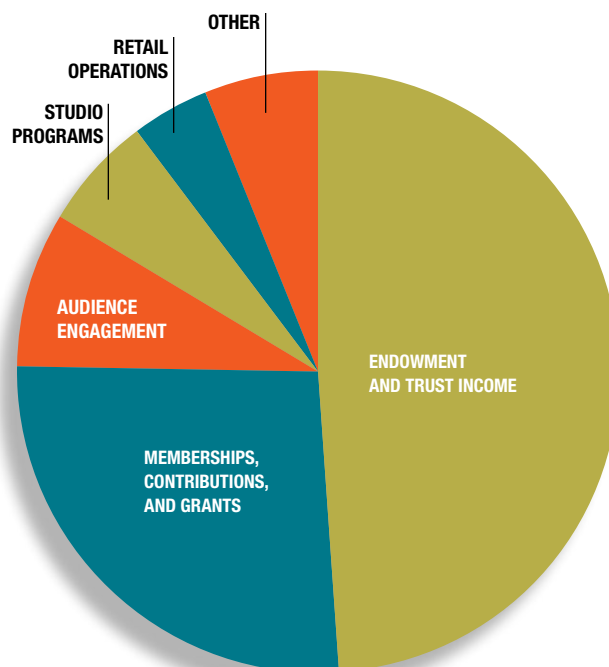
## ATTENDANCE

Galleries	62,394
Events	28,215
Tours	21,738
Classes / Workshops	16,115
Museum Programs	11,531
Outreach Projects	2,085
Rentals	1,893
Pappajohn Sculpture Park	81,253

**Subtotal 225,224**

Des Moines Arts Festival 230,000

**Grand Total 455,224**



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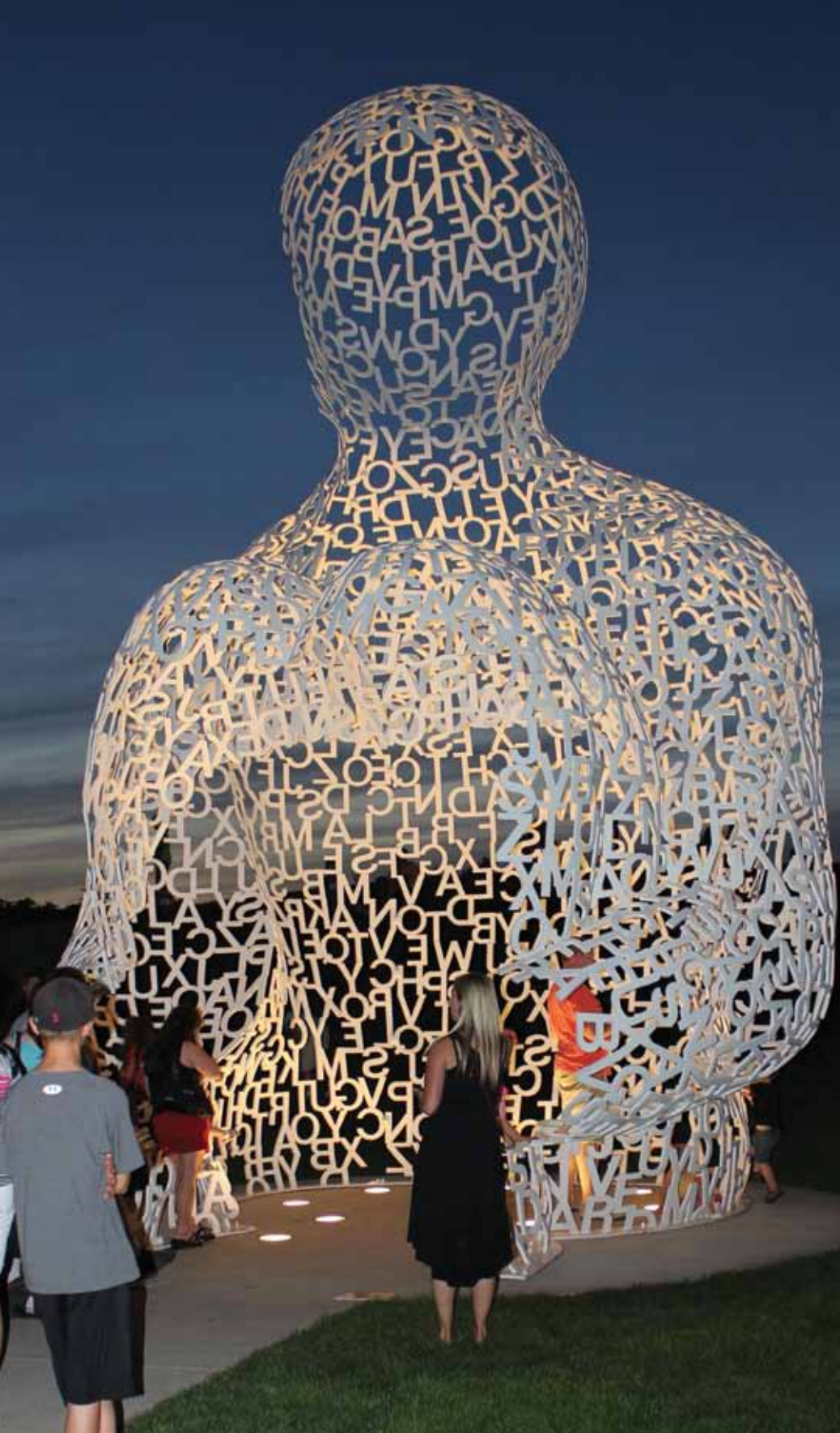
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AS OF DECEMBER 2011



**The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park continued to be a welcome entry point into downtown Des Moines and drew people from around the world to visit the sculpture collection and enjoy the park atmosphere.**

Jaume Plensa (Spanish, born 1955). *Nomade*, 2007. Painted stainless steel. 324 x 204 x 216 inches  
Promised gift from John and Mary Pappajohn to the Des Moines Art Center



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