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**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Exhibition *Immersive* Opens at the Des Moines Art Center**

*Become fully immersed in works of art by four contemporary artists March 12 – June 5, 2022.*

**DES MOINES, IA (March 2022)** – The Des Moines Art Center is unveiling a new exhibition titled *Immersive* Saturday, March 12 and running through June 5, 2022, in the Anna K. Meredith Gallery and the Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey Gallery.

*Immersive* is a multi-part experiential exhibition that invites visitors to be completely immersed in artworks from the permanent collection and beyond. Instead of moving through traditional gallery spaces, one will follow a path from darkened space to darkened space, each filled with light, color, and sound, creating a unique sensory experience.

The first installation is by Kansas City-based guest artist Matthew Willie Garcia, whose combinations of three-dimensional prints on paper and video projections deal with transcendence and alternate realities, exploring our relationship to space and time. In the next space, Ran Hwang's playful and sparkling *Garden of Water* reflects light from thousands of crystal-beaded sewing pins as projected rain and spiderwebs fall across the artwork. The third part of the gallery features Bill Viola's *Ascension*, in which hypnotic blue light and underwater sounds enhance a film both pensive and hopeful. In the Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey Gallery, Des Moines-based multimedia artist Oyoram uses LED technology to create a room that transports the viewer into a surprising, ground-shifting experience. Collectively, *Immersive* presents art that provokes emotion and imagination and provides a place to step fully into the art itself.

While the work in this exhibition comes from the 21<sup>st</sup>-century, artists of all kinds have long traditions of building multi-layered environments for people to experience. Medieval cathedrals filled their massive aisles with stone sculpture, incense, song, and the glow of light through stained glass. Monet installed his giant *Water Lilies* in a circular gallery, allowing visitors to feel as if they had walked into his garden. Popular culture is filled with immersive experiences, from haunted houses and amusement park rides to 3-D movies and virtual reality video games. The success and longevity of such efforts suggest many of us are looking for a few moments to step into worlds beyond our own, taking in the beauty and spectacle they have to offer. In these four installations, the Art Center hopes you enjoy whatever journey they inspire.

This exhibition has been organized by Curatorial Director Laura Burkhalter.

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For additional information or photos, contact Director of External Affairs Amy Day at 515.271.0344 or [aday@desmoinesartcenter.org](mailto:aday@desmoinesartcenter.org).



#### Captions

Left:

Bill Viola (American, born 1951)

*Ascension*, 2000

Color video projection on wall in dark room; stereo sound

Running Time: 10 minutes

Image (projected size): 98 13/16 x 131 7/8 inches

Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2001.1

Center:

Ran Hwang (Korean, born 1960)

*Garden of Water*, 2010, detail

Beads, crystal, pins, video on Plexiglas

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York, 2013.5.a-g

Right:

Matthew Willie Garcia (American, born 1985)

*We Carry Space and Time Within Us*, 2021

Projection Mapped Animation over acrylic printed and airbrush wood panel

Running Time: 10min

Courtesy of the artist



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About the Des Moines Art Center + John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park

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 of art from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, with a major emphasis on contemporary art. Focused on quality and global in scope, it includes major works by Henry Ossawa Tanner, Edward Hopper, Georgia O’Keeffe, Francis Bacon, Andy Goldsworthy, Henri Matisse, Wangechi Mutu, Ai Wei Wei and Kara Walker, among hundreds of others. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a renowned architect—Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei and Richard Meier. Apart from 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 31 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Martin Puryear, Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Willem de Kooning, Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, Keith Haring, Robert Indiana, 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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