Exhibition of Large-Scale Color Photographs Opens October 9 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – Photographer Andrew Moore has worked along the 100th meridian for the past decade, drawn to its mythic past and the people who call the High Plains home. Based out of Rushville, Nebraska, for much of this project, Moore found an unassuming landscape that revealed a long history of challenging weather, repeated drought, and ongoing cycles of economic boom and bust. Set within the context of this demanding legacy, however, he also discovered the vitality of its inhabitants and the elegance of the plains’ spare topography. Although literally the center of the United

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States, its sparse population teeters between geographic isolation and its prominent role in national and global markets for agriculture, energy, and natural resources. Moore sets this dynamic against the enduring myths of a quintessentially American landscape, balancing the weight of its past against a complex future.

Featuring forty-two large-scale, color photographs, *Dirt Meridian* opens to the public on Sunday, October 9, at Joslyn Art Museum and continues through January 8, 2017.

**About Dirt Meridian**

While the frontier is a fluid concept, the 100th meridian has traditionally been understood as the beginning of the American West. Passing through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, no other longitude carries the geographic weight of the 100th meridian in our national history. The hardwood forests of the East's mountains and river valleys give way to prairie, and rainfall to its west averages less than twenty inches a year. This arid climate made the traditional 160-acre homestead a practical impossibility. For all of its geographic and cultural importance, however, the 100th meridian still remains a difficult place for most to envision. Lacking the commanding presence of the Rocky Mountains or the Grand Canyon, the landscapes of the 100th meridian could be considered featureless, if one was not paying close attention.

Moore works with both a traditional 8 x 10 inch film camera and a medium-format digital camera, although during this project he discovered a novel way to capture the expanse of the plains landscape. Trying to explore hundreds of square miles on a daily basis, Moore enlisted a pilot in Rushville, Nebraska, to help him get a better sense of the topography. From the cockpit of Doug Dean's Cessna, Moore was able to scout far beyond what was visible from the road, and Dean's careful hand could land artist and camera on almost any level field. Soon, the two devised a way to mount Moore's digital camera under a wing strut, controlled from a laptop in the cockpit. Photographing from this slight elevation gives the sense of being within the landscape rather than above it, a fortuitous solution that enabled Moore to capture the geographic forms and temporal mechanisms of the landscape and reveal the qualities of light, wind, and weather that define the High Plains.

In his carefully woven dialogue of people and place, Moore's photographs find a consistent, deeply rooted narrative that has been unfolding over the past 150 years. His images sit squarely at the intersection of two lines — the invisible vertical of the 100th meridian and the omnipresent level of the horizon. Imagined together, they map the rise and fall of a subtle topography that runs uninterrupted to the edge of the sky; the endless grind of the wind that abrades the paint from the sides of houses and barns; blizzards that scour barren fields. It is a landscape that requires a direct acceptance of the facts and of its inherent limits, yet it does so with a generosity toward those with the patience to discover the elegance in its simple geometry and quiet perseverance.

**About Andrew Moore**

Andrew Moore has been highly regarded for his large-format historic and cultural documentary photography for over two decades. His work is held in over forty museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National -more-
Dirt Meridian: Photographs by Andrew Moore at Joslyn Art Museum

Gallery of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. A frequent contributor to The New York Times, he has published several monographs, including Cuba (2012), Detroit Disassembled (2010), and Making History (2010). In 2014, Moore received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to support his work on Dirt Meridian.

Exhibition Catalogue
The exhibition is accompanied by the publication Dirt Meridian (Damiani, 2015; $44.95 in the Hitchcock Museum Shop; Member price: $40.46), which includes essays by Toby Jurovics, Joslyn’s Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, and Inara Verzemnieks, who has written for publications including The New York Times Magazine and The Atlantic. Kent Haruf, famed author of Plainsong, provided the introduction.

Exhibition Tickets and Tours
Dirt Meridian is open to the public October 9, 2016, through January 8, 2017. Dirt Meridian is a ticketed exhibition. Joslyn members see it first and see it free! $10 for general public adults; members, youth ages 17 and younger, and college students with ID are free. Special Thursday pricing (4–8 pm): $5 for general public adults. All visitors, including members, must obtain a ticket at the admissions desk for entrance to the exhibition. Programs with visits to the exhibition will be priced accordingly for general public adults. Docent-guided tours of the exhibition are offered weekly (ticket pricing applies; view the calendar of events at joslyn.org for tour offerings).

Exhibition Programs & Events
Saturday, October 8
Members Preview Day & Evening Event
Private Preview Day; 10 am–4 pm
Every ticketed special exhibition at Joslyn opens first and exclusively for members. The members preview day for Dirt Meridian is Saturday, October 8. From 10 am to 4 pm, members show their membership card at the admissions desk for tickets to the exhibition on preview day (reservations not required during the day). At 2 pm, Toby Jurovics, Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, and artist Andrew Moore will present a talk for members in the exhibition galleries.

Artist Discussion & Reception; 6–8 pm
On Saturday evening, October 8, members are invited to a private discussion and reception celebrating Dirt Meridian. At 6 pm, guests will be treated to a conversation between artist Andrew Moore and Toby Jurovics, Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, in the concert hall. The presentation will be followed by exhibition viewing, complimentary light hors d’oeuvres, and a cash bar in the fountain court. An optional, paid dinner service, Dine at Joslyn, is offered to Joslyn members the night of the preview (reservations are closed for Dine at Joslyn on October 8). To inquire about joining Joslyn and/or attending this preview, call the membership department at (402) 661-3858.

Thursday, November 10 @ 6:30 pm (cash bar @ 5 pm)
Curator Gallery Talk
Regular exhibition ticketing applies ($5 Thursday evening pricing for general public adults). Participants will join Toby Jurovics, Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, for a walk through the exhibition.

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Saturday, December 10; 10 am–noon

**Kickstart Saturday**
Participants may visit the exhibition *Dirt Meridian* to see the work of photographer Andrew Moore (from 10 am to noon on December 10, general public adult tickets to *Dirt Meridian* are just $5. Youth tickets are always free!). With guidance from artist Joe Addison, guests can develop a photographic art piece using the chemigram process. For toe-tappin' fun, the Pluckin' Nutz, three talented Nebraska musicians who play music that makes you want to sing-a-long, will perform.

Sunday, December 11; 2 pm

**A Conversation with Prairie Bush Pilot Doug Dean**
Regular exhibition ticketing applies. Join Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's Chief Curator and Holland Curator of American Western Art, in the *Dirt Meridian* exhibition galleries for a talk with pilot Doug Dean. Dean's experience and passion for flying and photography, combined with a chance meeting and resultant friendship with Andrew Moore, have culminated in the collaboration on view in *Dirt Meridian*.
Dean grew up in the Nebraska Sandhills and was inspired from a young age by their natural beauty and remoteness. Dean has logged over 11,000 hours as a commercial pilot, flying in some of the most remote locations in the U.S. (occasionally accompanied by his border collie, Dan Tucker). While he has always considered photography a mere hobby, some of his work has still managed to find its way into magazines and television; most recently *Pilot Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and CNN TV's "Inside Man."

**Other Program at Joslyn**
Many of Joslyn's regularly scheduled programs will feature *Dirt Meridian*-inspired themes this fall. Visit www.joslyn.org for complete details.

- **Art Encounters** (Thursday, October 20; 10:30 am): Art lovers, from the well-seasoned to the amateur, will enjoy a docent-guided tour of the exhibition. $5 for general public adults on October 20 (includes *Dirt Meridian* exhibition ticket).

- **Visualizing Literature** (Tuesday, November 8; 10:30 am): *Visualizing Literature* explores connections between the literary and visual arts through moderated book discussions and gallery tours led by docents. Selected to complement the *Dirt Meridian* exhibition, *Son of a Gamblin' Man: The Youth of an Artist* by Mari Sandoz tells of the gambler and town site promoter who founded Cozad, Nebraska (situated on the 100th meridian), and of his family, particularly his younger son, who became the world-famous artist and teacher, Robert Henri. Regular exhibition ticketing applies for general public adults. Presented in partnership with Nebraska Medicine and UNMC's Passport Partners program.

- **Story Adventures** (Tuesday, November 15; 10:30 am): Preschoolers and young readers, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this artful reading program presented by Joslyn and Omaha Public Library on selected Tuesdays at 10:30 am. On November 15, stories will be read in the *Dirt Meridian* exhibition. Admission is free, including time spent in the exhibition galleries.

- **Stroller Tours** (Wednesday, November 16): Joslyn offers docent-guided tours designed for moms, dads, and caregivers to look at and talk about art with other adults, while being mindful of young ones in arms and strollers. Guests gather on the Strauss Bridge at 9:30 am for complimentary refreshments, then head to the galleries at 10 am for tours of Joslyn's collections and exhibitions. Crying babies welcome! On November 16, the tour will feature the *Dirt Meridian* exhibition. Free for Joslyn members and infants/toddlers; $10 for general public adults (includes exhibition ticket). Space is limited; reservations are requested. Sign-up at least one week in advance at www.joslyn.org > Visit > Kids Programs.

- **Art Camps and Classes**
Joslyn offers fall 2016 camps and classes inspired by the exhibition for teens and adults. Online class registration is available; Joslyn members receive discounted registration. Visit www.joslyn.org > Education > Classes.
Our Mission — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience. Our Vision — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, cafe, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for general public adult tickets to Dirt Meridian; see page 3). Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late ‘til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

www.joslyn.org  |  (402) 342-3300  |  2200 Dodge Street  |  Omaha, NE 68102