



NEWS RELEASE

2200 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 Phone: 402-342-3300 Fax: 402-342-2376 www.joslyn.org

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Contacts: Amy Rummel, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org

Joslyn Art Museum Announces Expansion; International Firm Snøhetta Selected as Architect

(Omaha, NE) – Joslyn Art Museum announced today that it has selected Snøhetta to lead an expansion that will be transformative for the Museum, the city of Omaha, and Nebraska. Central to the architecture and landscape design project is a new building that will complement and enhance Joslyn's original 1931 Memorial Building and 1994 Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion addition, designed by Norman Foster. Introducing a new Joslyn for the twenty-first century, the expansion will add new galleries to showcase more art in an architecturally inspiring space; support greater breadth and depth of public programming and art education opportunities offered by Joslyn; and create an environment that heightens the Museum experience and exceeds visitors' expectations.

Selecting Snøhetta

A selection committee comprising Joslyn staff and Omaha community leaders conducted an expansive search for an architect with multiple international firms in line for the project. With an impressive résumé of completed work around the globe, its stunning designs informed by human interaction and a multi-disciplinary approach, and its dedication to sustainability, Snøhetta was the committee's unanimous choice. The 30-year-old firm, under founding partner Craig Dykers, began its career with the revival of the ancient library of Alexandria, Egypt. This was later followed by the commission for the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, and the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion in New York City, among many others. Recently completed works include the redesign of the public space in Times Square, the Lascaux IV Caves Museum in Montignac, France, and the highly-acclaimed expansion to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Completed in May 2016, the reimagined SFMOMA was purpose built to showcase the Museum's celebrated collection and engage the community as never before.

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Joslyn Art Museum Announces Expansion, Snøhetta as Architect

Joslyn Art Museum executive director and CEO Jack Becker noted the significance of the selection of Snøhetta related not only to the future of Joslyn, but also to its storied past. "The Museum is one of Nebraska's greatest assets, and this project will allow it to be and do more . . . show more art, welcome more people, elevate the Museum visitor experience, offer many more teaching moments. This physical and programmatic expansion will happen with the utmost care and respect for the two remarkable and beloved buildings that presently comprise Joslyn. Snøhetta is an outstanding firm, and a perfect fit for this project, not only for their visionary design, but also for their commitment to honoring the legacy of the Museum and celebrating what Joslyn means to us, to our city, and to Nebraska."

Craig Dykers, founding partner, noted, "Omaha's place in the great landscape of the American West is a wonderful inspiration to us. Together with Joslyn's rich collections of art spanning the globe and its dynamic relationship with the communities that sustain it create a powerful platform to begin designing the next phase of its life, for future generations. All of us at Snøhetta are energized and honored to be a part of the work."

Highlights of Joslyn's Expansion

With a rich history that touches generations of Nebraskans and a reputation as a cultural hub of the community, Joslyn's evolution will both embrace its context as an Omaha icon and reflect the promise of new experiences in a vibrant, culturally relevant atmosphere open to all. As the Museum expands, so will the opportunities for visitors to interact with art and with one another. Honoring Joslyn's identity as Omaha's Museum, this exciting project looks to the future when thousands of people in our community and beyond will experience the Museum for the first time, or again, in a whole new way.

New galleries will allow Joslyn to meet the demands and explore the possibilities of a growing permanent collection, including the gift of fifty works from the nationally-renowned Phillip G. Schrager Collection of Contemporary Art, announced in June 2016. The Schrager gift is the single most important gift of art to Joslyn Art Museum since its founding days, and one that instantly propels the Museum to a new position on the international museum stage. Additional gallery space will also increase flexibility in existing buildings for showcasing works previously not on view due to space constraints. Examples include selections from the Museum's expansive collection of works on paper as well as Joslyn's historic and contemporary Indigenous collections, which will soon be reinvigorated by a curator of Native American art, a position newly-funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Joslyn is a free general admission Museum welcoming over 190,000 people annually, including visitors from all 50 states and over 70 countries outside the U.S. (in 2017). Attendance has been steadily increasing (up 62% since 2010), spurred by the variety and quality of public programs offered by the Museum, as well as the no-cost admission to its permanent collection. Committed to welcoming *everyone* regardless of their ability to pay, Joslyn's dedication to free general admission and accessibility is an important guiding principle of the expansion. With more people enjoying the Museum each year, the project has as a key goal the dramatic elevation of the visitor experience. Likewise, as more visitors take advantage of all that Joslyn has to offer, there is an ever-increasing demand for more art education opportunities via studio classes, public programs, and daily hands-on activities. Expansion and renovation will allow Joslyn to accommodate more people of all ages and backgrounds for art-based learning, personal creative expression, and fun in a Museum setting.

About Joslyn Art Museum

New Directions

Joslyn Art Museum is the largest museum in the state of Nebraska and a cultural cornerstone of the city of Omaha for 88 years. Over the past five years, the Museum has defined and achieved several new projects and goals that have had a significant impact on its audiences and positioned the institution for the future. These recent accomplishments include the return to offering **free general admission** to the public year-round, a goal of the Museum's founder, Sarah Joslyn. From 1931 to 1965, the Museum was free of charge to all, and, in 2013, Joslyn committed again to welcoming everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, through its doors and into its galleries.

In 2014, Joslyn opened a 1,500 square-foot interactive space, **ART WORKS: A Place for Curiosity**. The area features nine activity stations and ever-changing hands-on projects connected closely to Joslyn permanent collection and special exhibitions. The success of ART WORKS with families and all audiences is evidenced by their use of the space – 44,500 visitors enjoyed time in ART WORKS in 2017.

Also in 2014, the Museum opened the **Karen and Doug Riley Contemporary Artists Project (CAP) Gallery**, presenting nationally- and internationally-recognized living artists, as well as emerging talent. The CAP Gallery brings new perspectives on contemporary art to Nebraska.

At the end of 2016, over \$6,000,000 of **capital repairs** were completed to the Memorial (1931) and Pavilion (1994) buildings bringing life safety, building envelope, and building systems securely into the 21st century.

Civic Architecture

Joslyn Art 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. Both Sarah and George were noted community and arts supporters; making their fortune in Omaha, they vowed to return much of their wealth to the city through their philanthropy. 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 Lord Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, 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, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

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Collections

Comprising over 12,000 works of art, Joslyn's comprehensive and globally-recognized collections are a significant cultural resource for the community and the region. Highlights include a highly-regarded collection of Greek pottery and significant objects from ancient Asia; Old Master paintings by Rembrandt, Titian, El Greco, and Veronese; noteworthy nineteenth-century French academic paintings by Breton, Bouguereau, and Gérôme; and Impressionist masterpieces by Pissarro, Renoir, Monet, Cassatt, Degas, Matisse, and others. The American collection offers a historical overview of the major themes of American art through the 1930s, from an early Hudson River School landscape by Thomas Cole to major work by Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton. Especially notable in the American collection are works by artists and explorers of the American West, including major holdings by Alfred Jacob Miller and nearly 400 watercolors and drawings by Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, who journeyed up the Missouri River between 1832–34 to portray the landscapes of the high plains and its native inhabitants. Native American cultures are represented by a diverse collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists. Joslyn's post-1945 and contemporary collection includes impressive works by Pollock, Calder, Frankenthaler, Bleckner, Held, Judd, and others. Joslyn's collection of works by living artists is growing and features John Divola, Brad Kahlhamer, Hayv Karman, Orly Genger, Jennifer Steinkamp, and many others.

Education & Outreach

Joslyn has committed itself to the role of leader in arts education. Over the decades, the Museum has offered a wide range of programs connected to art and history, and hundreds of thousands of school students have visited for traditional gallery tours. Today the Museum's role is far more expansive. While Joslyn's collections and exhibitions remain at the heart of programming, the Museum strives for visitor-centered experiences. Joslyn is a gathering place: a space for informal, life-long learning, where the community is invited to actively engage with art and with one another. At the foundation of the Museum's mission today is a dedication to provide opportunities that address the interests of a broader audience, including adults, youth and families, K-16 students and faculty, and under-served groups and individuals with special needs.

Education programs provide visitors of all ages, with opportunities to learn from and respond to art, and to participate in many ways, including through their own creative expression. Programs range from studio art classes to book discussions, gallery talks to teacher trainings, yoga sessions to youth mentoring, poetry slams to lecture luncheons, mobile tours to modern dance performances, and so much more. Additionally, programming occurs off-site, offering art experiences throughout the city and building a more diverse museum-going audience for the future.

Accessibility & Community

For over eight decades Joslyn has played a critical role within the Omaha metropolitan area. The first museum experience for many in the community has been at Joslyn, and generations have grown up deeply connected to the Museum. The Museum's primary audience remains Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. Thirty percent of visitors come from outside of Douglas County. Expanding its presence beyond its walls, the Museum has a strong history of community partnerships. Collaborations with educational, social, cultural and civic, organizations strengthen the Museum's connection with the city and Nebraska. In 2013, the Museum returned to the original vision of its founder Sarah Joslyn, granting free general admission to the public year-round. Free general admission has increased attendance and diversified Joslyn's audience while strengthening the bond between the institution and the community it serves.

About Snøhetta

For nearly 30 years, Snøhetta has designed some of the world's most notable public and cultural projects. Snøhetta kick-started its career in 1989 with the competition-winning entry for the new library of Alexandria, Egypt. This was later followed by the commission for the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo, and the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center in New York City, among many others. Recently completed works include the redesign of the public space in Times Square, the Lascaux IV Caves Museum in Montignac, France, the expansion to the

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San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the design for Norway's new banknotes. Since its inception, the practice has maintained its original trans-disciplinary approach, integrating architectural, landscape, interior, graphic design, and product design into its projects.

Snøhetta is currently working on a number of projects internationally including the Le Monde Headquarters in Paris, the Cornell University Executive Education Center and Hotel in New York, and the Calgary's New Central Library in Canada. In 2018, Harvard House Zero, the most ambitious net-zero energy retrofit to date will be completed for the Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Among its many recognitions, Snøhetta received the World Architecture Award for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet and the Aga Kahn Prize for Architecture for the Alexandria Library. Since its completion in 2008, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet has also garnered the Mies van der Rohe European Union Prize for Architecture and the EDRA (Environmental Design Research Association) Great Places Award, as well as the European Prize for Urban Public Space, The International Architecture Award, and The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2010. In 2016, Snøhetta was named the Wall Street Journal's Architecture Innovator of the Year.

For more information, contact Amy Rummel, Joslyn Art Museum director of marketing and public relations, at (402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org.

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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.

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for major ticketed special exhibitions).

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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