



DUBUQUE
museum
OF art



Smithsonian Affiliate



New DuMA Exhibition Connects Artists & Audiences to Process COVID-19 Experience

Exhibition highlights self-portraits made by local artists during pandemic

For Immediate Release

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October 20, 2020 (DUBUQUE, IA) – Visitors to *Portraits of the Pandemic* (October 24, 2020 – February 7, 2021) will experience an innovative exhibition of self-portraits created by tri-state artists during the pandemic. The exhibition is made possible by the support of Premier Bank and the Schoen Family Foundation. Over 60 portraits showcase how artists often look inward to process periods of uncertainty, isolation, and controversy. Guests will explore how the pandemic has altered our view of ourselves. The exhibition features paintings, photographs, works on paper and digital portraits created during the pandemic by 50 artists from Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois.

“During times of isolation, artists need audiences to bring their work to life,” said curator Stacy Peterson. “As a community, we can benefit from the work of artists to help us process the feelings we are experiencing. Perhaps this exhibition can bridge that divide.” At the suggestion of local artist and teacher Lisa Towers, Peterson issued an open call to artists this summer to submit self-portraits created since March 2020 for an online exhibition. Those works were

shared on DuMA's social media channels over the summer. "Usually museum exhibitions take years to plan," said Peterson. "As a result of the unprecedented shutdowns this year, we were able to speed up that process."

Complimenting *Portraits of the Pandemic is Up Down and Through* (October 24, 2020 – February 7, 2021). This exhibition showcases 12 new paintings by Illinois artist Nichole Gronvold Roller. The artist's irregular polygonal canvases and abstract kaleidoscope imagery exam the relationship between the natural and man-made environments of the Midwest. The exhibition is made possible through the support of Cottingham & Butler.

About the Dubuque Museum of Art

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to excite, engage and serve diverse communities within the Tri-State area through our collections, exhibitions and educational programs. We connect generations of people to their cultural heritage and exceptional art.

DuMA is located across from Washington Park in historic downtown Dubuque at 7th and Locust Streets. The museum re-opened to the public on June 27 thanks to generous support by Art Bridges. The museum is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. DuMA is closed Sunday - Tuesday. Daily admission rates are: \$7 Adults, \$6 Seniors, and \$4 College/University Students. The museum is free on Thursdays, and those 18 and younger receive free admission every day, thanks to Prudential Financial.

Safety measures in the museum include the wearing of face masks, social distancing, and an increase in the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing. Masks and hand sanitizer are available for guests. The Glab Family Art Studio and Classroom will be closed until further notice.

For more information please visit www.dbqart.org or call 563.557.1851.

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