



Dubuque Museum of Art Announces *I Am A Man* Mural Exhibition

Painting of two-story mural begins this weekend

For Immediate Release

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April 7, 2021 (DUBUQUE, IA) – The [Dubuque Museum of Art \(DuMA\)](#) in partnership with Voices Productions and with additional support by Trappist Caskets and Humanities Iowa, is hosting a temporary exhibition of Dana Harrison's *I Am A Man* mural at the corner of Bluff Street and 8th Street in downtown Dubuque.

The mural is located on a portion of the west side of a building that is planned for eventual deconstruction. "This temporary exhibition turns our gallery walls inside out through a creative reuse of a vacant radio station building," said DuMA's Executive Director Gary Stoppelman. "The scale of this work will engage thousands of citizens. Its impact extends beyond the building to include the conversations it inspires and the educational opportunities it creates."

The Museum will host a free community conversation in Washington Park on Sunday, April 11 at 1 pm between the artist and Museum Curator, Stacy Gage Peterson. The rain date is April 18. Painting, weather permitted, will begin Saturday, April 10.

Mr. Harrison, is an Iowa native who discovered a passion for letters and characters in the mid-1990s. He studied under Dasc of the mwck'z (Midwest can controllerz) and the late Sazko of the Belgiumbombers, and is a member of the Scarce Elements Crew. Fellow Iowa graffiti writer Asphate will work with Harrison on this mural.

The mural is inspired by a photograph taken on April 8, 1968 by photojournalist Bob Adelman at the memorial march in Memphis, Tennessee for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who had been assassinated just days before. Dr. King was planning to lead the I Am a Man march in Memphis supporting a sanitation workers strike that had begun in February. The workers were striking over their dangerous, low-paying working conditions as well as the racial violence of the era. The man in the image is carrying one of the hundreds of I AM A MAN signs made for the march. Instead of a march led by Dr. King though, the man carries it in mourning for Dr. King's murder.

The location for this temporary installation is also significant. The intersection at Bluff and 8th is where the Dubuque Museum of Art was originally established in 1874, now the home of the Telegraph Herald offices. Across the street, where today there is a parking lot, was once the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This church served the small Black neighborhood that was centered just up 8th Street around the intersections of Hill and University in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, I Am A Man is a fitting image for the Museum campus that sits adjacent to Washington Square Park, a popular location, historically and today, where local citizens gather, march, and protest.

The *I Am A Man* mural is a compelling and powerful image that depicts a pivotal moment in history. It bears witness to the courageous protesters who faced violence and brutality in the battle for civil rights. While the building remains, the mural is a reminder of the struggles of the past and how far we have yet to go. Because it is temporary, the image calls on us to carry its message forward.

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 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 on all exhibitions and upcoming programs please visit [dbqart.org](http://www.dbqart.org) (<http://www.dbqart.org>) or call 563.557.1851.