

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM RECEIVES \$10 MILLION DONATION

Gift is largest in the organization's 123 year history

Worcester, MA—July 22, 2019--The Worcester Art Museum (WAM) today announced that it has received a \$10 million gift from the C. Jean & Myles McDonough Charitable Foundation—the largest single donation in WAM's history. This contribution follows the Foundation's \$4 million endowment gift and naming of WAM's directorship in 2015, and continues Jean McDonough's lifelong support of the Museum with a gift targeted at supporting both the Museum's near-term needs and its long-term financial health.

“The Worcester Art Museum is a tremendous resource for culture and education for people throughout New England, and an institution greatly deserving all of our support,” said Neil McDonough. “With my mother's gift, we see an opportunity to strengthen the Museum's current operations, encourage growth of the endowment, and support its ambitious plans for the future.” Lisa McDonough, a WAM Trustee and Jean McDonough's daughter-in-law, added: “We hope that by making this commitment, other members of our community will also step forward to ensure that WAM continues to thrive.”

“On behalf of the Worcester Art Museum, I would like to thank the McDonough family—and Jean in particular—for this exceptional gift, which benefits both the Museum, and the community we serve. It reflects Jean's lifelong devotion to the Museum, which she describes as her second home. For years, she served as a forward-thinking trustee and as a docent extraordinaire, who introduced thousands of school children to the Museum collection, and we are tremendously grateful for her past engagement. Now she has demonstrated ongoing leadership by providing a gift that will create new opportunities for the Museum,” said Matthias Waschek, the Museum's C. Jean and Myles McDonough Director.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional collection of art. Dating from 3,000 BC to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives—including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to exhibition

design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction—offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

Since its founding in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum has assembled a collection of 38,000 objects: from the ancient Near East and Asia, to European and American paintings and sculptures, and continuing with works by contemporary artists from around the world. WAM has a history of making large scale acquisitions, such as its Medieval Chapter House, the Worcester Hunt Mosaic, its 15th-century Spanish ceiling, and the Flemish *Last Judgment* tapestry. In 2013, the Museum acquired the John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection, comprising two thousand arms and armor objects. It continues to commission and present new works, such as 2017's installation of the interactive *Reusable Universes* and *Organic Concept* works by Shih Chieh Huang.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is \$16 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$14 for seniors 65+ and for college students with ID. Admission is free for Museum Members and children under age four. On the first Sunday of each month, admission is free for everyone. Museum parking is free. For more information, visit worchesterart.org.

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