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Andrea Carlson's *VORE* Series Debuts in Plains Art Museum Exhibition

Fargo, N.D. – Plains Art Museum presents a debut exhibition of a series of works entitled *VORE* by Andrea Carlson, opening September 10 and running through January 16, 2011. This exhibition offers audiences the opportunity to view many of Carlson's latest mixed media works on paper that reflect on narratives, cultural relations, and power.

Carlson shows prodigious talent for combining complex ideas with agile, compelling visual compositions that mix representation with abstraction, acrylic and oil paint with watercolor, gouache, pen and ink, graphite, and colored pencil. Her approach in both concept and media is to combine, juxtapose, mash-up, and integrate while incorporating cultural narratives from the dominant and global to indigenous perspectives.

Begun in 2009, her *VORE* series uses the idea of cannibalism metaphorically to address ideas about cultural consumption, cultural exchange and appropriation. "Vore" comes from the Latin root meaning "to eat," resulting in common words like carnivore and herbivore. Carlson does not depict acts of human cannibalism outright, but she often uses objects and animals as symbols for cultural consumption. She depicts objects, often from museum collections, seeing the museum as a voracious consumer of cultures.

Carlson was born in Minnesota and currently resides in Minneapolis, Minn. In 2003 she earned a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2005. Her work has exhibited widely, showing in venues such as the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, the October Gallery in London and at the University of Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy. She has gained recognition through several fellowships including the Minnesota State Arts Board (2006) and the McKnight Artists Fellowship (2007-08). Carlson exhibited her first solo show in New York at the George Gustav Heye Center last summer and is represented by Bockley Gallery in Minneapolis.

Plains Art Museum is located at 704 First Avenue North. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is a nonprofit, regional fine arts museum with plans to significantly expand its programs through its "Little Artist in All of Us" campaign. The campaign is raising funds for the Center for Creativity and Lifelong Learning which includes the Fingerprints Interactive Education Gallery and working with Fargo Public Schools and other educational entities to build teaching studios. The campaign is also strengthening operations by enhancing the Museum's endowment and visitor services.

Museum programs are made possible, in part, by major funding from members of the Museum, The FUNd at Plains Art Museum, the cities of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo through The Arts Partnership, The McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, the North Dakota Council on the Arts through an appropriation by the North Dakota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. More information is available at 701.232.3821 or at www.plainsart.org.

Images available upon request.

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