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Contact: Kris Kerzman, 701.232.3821, ext. 121

kkerzman@plainsart.org

Preview Exhibition to Highlight Upcoming FMVA Studio Crawl

Fargo, N.D. – Plains Art Museum will open the *Studio Crawl Preview* exhibition on September 2 in anticipation of the FM Visual Artists' (FMVA) two-day Studio Crawl on Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3. The exhibition will offer visitors an early look at many of the featured artists' work and will close on October 10. Various media will be represented in the Crawl and in the preview exhibition.

The Studio Crawl was established in 2004 to develop an awareness and appreciation for the quality and diversity of visual arts in the region. During the two-day event, the public is given a chance to go behind the scenes of a working artist's studio and exposed to dynamic educational experiences that demystify art's "making" process.

Thirty-two studios will be open for visitation during this year's crawl. Studio Crawl maps are available at Plains Art Museum, 704 1st Av. N., at www.fmva.us, at area businesses and from the participating artists.

A high percentage of the area's most recognized artists participate, including full-time artists and arts educators. NDSU has opened studio space at its downtown facilities so emerging student artists can participate. Most studios are fully accessible from a mobility standpoint.

The FMVA is a recognized 501(c) (3) non-profit organization open to all those interested in supporting local and regional arts. It was established to promote and encourage visual art and artists in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Plains Art Museum, FMVA, and Prairie Public Broadcasting are major sponsors of the event. Additional sponsors include NDSU, Bison Illustrated, Hotel Donaldson, High Plains Reader, Kilbourne Group, The Forum, Summit Brewing, Atomic Coffee, Ron and Karen Offutt, Fargo Streethawks, and 7th Avenue Auto Salvage.

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.