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PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release)

Community Threads Winter Seasonal Saturday Event at MMAM

WINONA, MN (March 2022) - Minnesota Marine Art Museum

For the first time in two two years due to the pandemic, the Minnesota Marine Art Museum (MMAM) in Winona, MN, will offer its popular arts access program, Seasonal Saturdays, with an in-person, onsite event on Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seasonal Saturdays at MMAM are fun-filled, exciting, inviting days offering \$1 admission for all, free transportation, a themed art activity for all ages and abilities, artist-led programming, live music in the galleries, and 30-minute tours related to MMAM's current exhibitions and the changing theme of each event. This is the first of four Seasonal Saturday event days planned for 2022, one per season.

Curator of Education, Heather Casper, states, "We are cautiously optimistic that people will feel comfortable and excited to return to this event to connect with each other and the artworks. We have been really thoughtful as we have prepared the offerings for the day and hope people leave energized and refreshed."

Activities for March's *Winter Seasonal Saturday* will focus around the theme of "Community Threads" and celebrate the exhibition currently on view called *Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America*. There will be two live artist demonstrations. Yang Vue will be showcasing and demonstrating Paaj Ntaub or Pa Doa (pronounced "*pan dau*"), a Hmong needlework flower cloth from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cha Neng Vang will be playing the Hmong instrument Qeej (pronounced "*geng*") from 1-3 p.m. Additionally, there will be a block print fabric art-making for all ages and abilities throughout the day.

Cellist Rachel Ryan will be performing in the gallery from 11 a.m. to noon, and Heart Strings Harp Circle will be performing from 3-4 p.m. There will be a bingo gallery game for all ages to earn a prize and an opportunity to partake in a community weaving activity all day long.

Every hour, MMAM staff and tour guides will offer 30-minute tours to introduce participants to the exhibitions. There will be a "MMAM Highlights Tour" focusing on select paintings in the American and European exhibitions, and to celebrate the theme of "Community Threads," there will be a special tour called "Artful Threads" that will explore the fabric, fashion, and cloth represented in select artworks on

view at MMAM. All tours will have assistive listening devices available to allow participants to better hear their tour guide.

Project FINE will be onsite all day to offer interpretation for Spanish and Hmong speaking participants. For more information and for a detailed schedule of events, please visit mmam.org/seasonal-saturdays.

Seasonal Saturdays are arts access program days with the goal of reducing intimidation and increasing comfortable access to fine arts for everyone. MMAM developed Seasonal Saturdays in 2018 to change, expand and enrich the way it connects with the community in Winona, Minnesota. MMAM is also pleased to offer free rides to and from the museum with the Winona Transit Service Dial-a-Ride. Please call 507-454-6666 to schedule your ride.

Mark your calendars for Spring Seasonal Saturday on May 14, Summer Seasonal Saturday on August 14, and Fall Seasonal Saturday on November 12.

Seasonal Saturdays are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Artists demonstrations are supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Minnesota State Arts Board. Seasonal Saturdays are also supported by our generous sponsors: WNB Financial, Winona Foundation, Winona Community Foundation, BNSF, media sponsor The Water Main, Minnesota Public Radio, Coca-Cola of Winona, and Doug Troke, Farmers Insurance.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is a nonprofit art museum that engages visitors in meaningful visual art experiences through education and exhibitions that explore the ongoing and historic human relationship with water. Located in Winona, Minnesota, the purpose-built museum is located on the banks of the Mississippi River and boasts six galleries, an educational and events space, and a destination retail shop on its seven acre riverside campus. It is through this surprising diversity that MMAM is not only describing what marine art is, but pushing the boundaries of what marine art can be.