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Solo exhibition by Chuck Sperry, legendary rock poster artist, opens September 15
Including a sister exhibition of work from the psychedelic era opening September 8

[Fort Wayne, IN] – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to announce dual exhibitions exploring the intersection of art, music, and journalism, and their influence by the psychedelic era of the 1960s. On September 8, FWMOA will open *Litmus Test: Works on Paper from the Psychedelic Era*, followed by the opening of *All Access: Exploring Humanism in the Art of Chuck Sperry* a week later on September 15.

The Psychedelic Era was, among many things, a cultural frontier for colors and imagery. Music, politics, and drugs ignited an unprecedented expansion of art revolving around these elements. From Berkeley College to the Grande Ballroom in Detroit, young idealists organized and the art of the era came to fruition. This exhibition will be our bridge to that time, showcasing a psychedelic era works on paper.

The poster work and ephemera of Gary Grimshaw and the photography of Leni Sinclair will showcase the art that poured from that time and place. Blotter sheets from Mark Mothersbaugh, H.R. Giger, S. Clay Wilson, Chuck Sperry, and more will represent the creative fuel for many of the artists of the time. Also featured will be the work of the poster artists of the time: Wes Wilson, Victor Moscoso, Stanley Mouse, Rick Griffin, and Alton Kelley. Works by artists Alex and Allyson Grey and Isaac Abrams will display the fine art guided and influenced by the era and movement.

The exhibition of work by Chuck Sperry will be the first to feature this artist in a one-person show. Sperry has been preeminent in the rock poster genre since the late 1990s and has largely defined the genre in each decade since with his distinctive style and masterful printing technique.

Sperry has drawn inspiration for this work from the classical Greco-Roman idea of the muses and their metaphorical home on Mount Helikon — the source of inspiration for all things art and music. Naiads, nymphs and muses in their richly patterned floral settings make their way into Sperry's work. Dripping with brightly colored flowers, decked in gold and silver textures, Sperry's blue-silver muses sing a paean to the long tradition of humanism reactivated in the struggle for social progress, universal human rights, a more perfect democracy and the utopian ideals of the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco where Sperry has made his home since 1989.

On September 14 from 6-9pm, FWMOA will celebrate both exhibitions with a party featuring live music, appetizers, and meet-and-greets with exhibiting artist Chuck Sperry, *Litmus Test* curators Carlo McCormick and Josef Zimmerman, and other artists featured in the exhibitions. Tickets are \$8 Members / \$12 non-members and are available at www.fwmoa.org/rsvp.

Litmus Test: Works on Paper from the Psychedelic era is curated by independent curator and critic Carlo McCormick and FWMOA Curator of Contemporary Art Josef Zimmerman. *All Access: Exploring Humanism in the Art of Chuck Sperry* is organized by the Fort Wayne Museum of Art and its Curator of Contemporary Art Josef Zimmerman. For more information, please visit www.fwmoa.org.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the leading visual arts institution in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts a permanent collection including works by Mark di Suvero, Andy Warhol, and Kara Walker. The FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, and presentation of American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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