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FWMoA celebrates the art of the guitar

Medieval To Metal: The Art & Evolution Of The Guitar opens September 29

[FORT WAYNE, IND., September 5, 2018] – Fort Wayne Museum of Art is proud to present “Medieval To Metal: The Art & Evolution Of The Guitar”, a touring exhibition on view at FWMoA September 29-January 6 that celebrates the artistic development of the guitar.

Developed by The National GUITAR Museum (NGM), it features 40 objects, ranging from the intricately inlaid Moorish oud and 6-foot long Renaissance theorbo, to the modern Italian design of the Eko and transparent acrylic body of California's BC Rich guitars. Spanning centuries of design and craftsmanship, the exhibition takes visitors through the history of an object that is one of the most recognizable items on the planet.

“Over the past several years, interest in the guitar as an icon has grown significantly,” according to HP Newquist, executive director of the NGM. “The guitar has been a signature element of world culture for more than 500 years; now visitors can explore the design history and artistry that has played a major role in the guitar’s evolution.”

The guitar pervades culture beyond music. It was an integral element of the work of both Vermeer and Picasso, and today it is incorporated into advertising everything from clothes and cars to the Olympics. “It’s hard to find anyone who hasn’t been affected by the guitar, whether as players or just fans of all types of music. And while this may be apocryphal,” Newquist adds, “it’s a widely held belief that the two most recognizable man-made shapes on the planet are those of the Coca-Cola bottle and the electric guitar.”

“I’m particularly excited about this coming to our museum because of the thriving music scene that’s grown considerably just in the past few years. I see endless crossover between visual art and the artistry of this instrument. I’m betting that music lovers of all kinds will appreciate learning about both the origins of this instrument and celebrating its evolution to the rock guitars of today,” said Charles Shepard, president & CEO of FWMoA.

On October 12, FWMoA will welcome Paul Reed Smith for a special evening highlighting Smith’s influence on the guitar industry as well as his extensive knowledge of guitars. Tickets are \$8 for FWMoA Members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets are available at fwmoa.org/rsvp. An exhibition tour from Sweetwater Sound Senior Sales Engineer Greg Baum will be held on December 6 at 12:15pm, which is free with museum admission. On October 11, November 8, and December 13, FWMoA will present free pop-up guitar performances in the exhibition featuring local musicians.

The “Medieval To Metal” Exhibition also includes life-size photorealistic illustrations of historically important guitar designs from noted artist Gerard Huerta, and 20 photographs of acclaimed musicians and

their guitars from Neil Zlozower, one of the world's premier concert photographers. The FWMoA presentation of this exhibition is sponsored in part by Sweetwater Sound and Chuck and Lisa Surack.

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About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Founded in 1888, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is Northeast Indiana's leading visual arts institution. The museum regularly exhibits nationally acclaimed artists and features a permanent collection including works by Mark di Suvero, Andy Warhol, and Kara Walker. FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, and presentation of American and related art, in an effort to engage, educate, and add value to the lives of broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region. The museum is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne and receives support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. www.fwmoa.org

About The National GUITAR Museum: The National Guitar Museum is the first museum in the United States dedicated to the history, evolution and cultural impact of the guitar. Its touring exhibitions, launched in 2011, will be installed in over two dozen different cities before becoming the basis of The National Guitar Museum in a permanent home—the location of which will be announced in 2018. The organization was founded in 2009.