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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The National: Best Contemporary Photography 2014 opens March 29 at FWMoA**  
New FWMoA Biennial exhibit showcases national talent in photography

March 11, 2014 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The debut of *The National: Best Contemporary Photography 2014* coincides with the launching of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art's new collecting initiative focusing on contemporary photography and its goal of developing a preeminent biennial exhibition of only the best contemporary photography in the nation.

The exhibition is a hybrid invitational and juried exhibition, anchored by famous photography standouts Julie Blackmon, Martina Lopez, Richard Renaldi, Nick Veasey, and Sharon Harper as well as the work of dozens of talented photographers from across the country pushing the boundaries of the medium with adventurous techniques and original subject matter.

In terms of aesthetic quality, technical innovation, and cultural relevance, contemporary photography has increasingly proven its dominance as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century art form. This new biennial exhibition, similar in prestige and quality to FWMoA's well-established Contemporary Realism Biennial, features prominent invited artists and juried entrants with the intention of showcasing the finest work being created or exhibited in the nation. The exhibition is on display from March 29 – June 15, 2014, with many opportunities for the public to engage deeply with the exhibition through the following programs and events:

**May 1, 12:15pm: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Gallery Talk** / A guided walk-through and discussion led by experienced museum guides. Free with gallery admission.

**May 2, 6-9pm: Spring Party** / Celebrate all Spring exhibits with edibles by BakerStreet and live music by the End Times Spasm Band. \$5 Members / \$12 Guests.

**May 31, 2-4pm: Distinguished Lecture Series** Presents Martina Lopez, Associate Professor of Photography at the University of Notre Dame and *The National* invited artist.  
\$5 members / \$10 non-members.

This exhibit will be considered a Special Exhibition requiring a \$5 ticket per person in addition to general admission. This Special Exhibition ticket will be required on Free Days and Last Saturday Dollar Days when general admission is free or reduced. All FWMoA Members receive free Special Exhibition Tickets.

**About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art:** Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art as well as prints and drawings from artists such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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