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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Sculpture Exhibition Opens at Flint Institute of Arts**

(Flint, MI.) The exhibition ***3-D: Focus on the Figure*** will open on December 18 at the Flint Institute of Arts and continue through January 30, 2011. Artists have been inspired, throughout the history of art, to celebrate the human form using a variety of media. This exhibition explores the evolution of the human figure in sculpture from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The forty objects included in this exhibit were all drawn from the FIA's permanent collection.

“Many remarkable sculptures collected by the Flint Institute of Arts over the last 80 years are featured in this exhibition that spans five centuries. ***Focus on the Figure*** offers the viewer a wholly three-dimensional interpretation of the human figure as subject. Selected works range from an earthenware figure by the 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian artist Giovanni della Robbia, to bronze sculptures by French artists Edgar Degas and Auguste Rodin through modern and contemporary examples by artists such as Picasso and Duane Hanson. Although the works vary in every conceivable way, commonality lies in the artists' unique representation of the human form. The exhibition is also a tribute to the taste and generosity of patrons who have gifted their art collections to the museum,” said FIA Director John Henry.

Sculptural depictions of the figure can be traced to ancient times, but by the 15<sup>th</sup> century, sculpture reached an apotheosis particularly in Italy. Here, sculptors with the help of enlightened patrons, created works that realistically portrayed the individual human being with truth and dignity. This humanistic approach is evidenced in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century works, *Figure of Magdalene* by Vincent Nanques of carved olive wood and also in the sandstone angels of Giovanni Buora.

The almost life sized sculpture by 19<sup>th</sup> century artist Alberto Cambi captures the dancing figure of a young girl carved in translucent marble. 20<sup>th</sup> century French artist Edgar Degas' diminutive *Little School Girl* in cast bronze, contrasts with William Zorach's more statuesque *Spirit of the Dance*. A porcelain bust by Pablo Picasso and mixed media works by contemporary artists Kehinde Wiley and Mike Smith further demonstrate the variety of materials sculptors use as they seek to discover the seemingly endless possibilities inherent in the human form.

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The Flint Institute of Arts is located in the Cultural Center Park 2 blocks off the junction of I-475 and I-69 between the University of Michigan- Flint and Mott Community College. Hours are: Mon. - Wed. & Fri 12p-5p; Thu. 12p-9p, Sat. 10a-5p and Sun. 1p-5p. Closed December 24 & 25, 31 and January 1. For more information visit [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org) or (810) 234-1695.

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