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### Fourth Public Art Bus Unveiling at the Des Moines Arts Festival

**Des Moines, IA** — The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority announce the unveiling of the latest public art bus wrap on Friday, June 24 at the Des Moines Arts Festival. The project is part of the Public Art Foundation's Project Spaces initiative, which places compelling, temporary works of art in highly accessible and visible public spaces. Artist Larassa Kabel's design will be the fourth bus wrap in the series.

#### **Public Art Bus Unveiling**

**Date:** Friday, June 24, 2016

**Time:** Comments from the Public Art Foundation and DART at noon, followed by the unveiling

**Location:** 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Grand Avenue and Locust Street in downtown Des Moines

"A transit bus is a challenging format for any artist, yet it is a perfect fit for Larassa Kabel who transforms the intimate practice of drawing into a monumental scale. She titled her commission for the bus "*Where's the Ball?*" and it is a whimsical and stunning creation," said M. Jessica Rowe, director of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation. "The project is a great example of our public art process that depends upon a creative and collaborative approach to planning. Our partnership with DART helps to nurture the City's wider strategies for economic, social and cultural development -- our aim is to enrich the lives in our community by advancing the best of public art."

"The public art bus will travel to many of our great communities," said Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Council Member, DART Commissioner and Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation board member. "We are proud to continue this partnership to bring public art where you'd least expect it."

The bus wrap project began with an open call to which 45 artists from 21 states submitted applications. A team of art professionals reviewed more than 325 images and finalists were commissioned to create concept proposals. A series of DART buses have been wrapped with unique and colorful compositions. The first design by artist Alex Brown was unveiled in November 2014. Since then, a design by Jay Vigon was unveiled in June 2015. The third design by Susan Chrysler White was recently unveiled in March 2016.

#### **PUBLIC ART BUS TOURS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016**

Arts Festival attendees are invited to ride the public art bus for a free tour of public art in downtown Des Moines. Tours start at 1 and 3 p.m. and take approx. 40 minutes. The bus will pick up and drop off at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and High Streets, north of the Festival.

#### **ABOUT LARASSA KABEL**

Larassa Kabel is known for creating works of art in a highly distinctive style of photorealism. Kabel's large-scale artwork, especially her drawings of elegant, free-falling horses "mesmerized viewers in their skill and beauty." She earned a BFA (1982) from Iowa State University and has exhibited her work in solo shows including the Des Moines Art Center, PEEL Gallery in Houston, TX, and SOHO 20, New York City. Her group exhibitions are extensive and national.

#### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

"Conceptually, my art usually falls into emotionally challenging work. However, because of where this art will be displayed and who will be encountering it, I played with a different way that art can bring joy - comedy. I wanted to have the bus be an art ambassador of joy, something that comes up unexpectedly but brings a spark of happiness." – Larassa Kabel

#### **ABOUT THE GREATER DES MOINES PUBLIC ART FOUNDATION**

The Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, established in 2004, recognizes that art belongs not just in galleries and museums, but also in streetscapes, parks, buildings and infrastructures of a thriving community. Dedicated to envisioning, developing, advancing and promoting public art projects, the Public Art Foundation collaborates with local entities and artists to engage, inspire and enrich the lives of residents and visitors to the community. The goal is to increase awareness of our community as a world-class destination for public art. For more information about the Public Art Foundation, visit [www.dsmpublicartfoundation.org](http://www.dsmpublicartfoundation.org).

#### **ABOUT DART**

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority is the public transportation provider that serves Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that makes getting around Greater Des Moines easier and more convenient. For more information about services, schedules, route changes or directions to the nearest bus stop, visit [ridedart.com](http://ridedart.com) or call [515-283-8100](tel:515-283-8100). The MyDART Tools, Trip Planner and RideTime Transit app are now available at [ridedart.com](http://ridedart.com).

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