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THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 2016 SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Innovative exhibitions organized by The DAI will explore the classical elements

(DAYTON, OHIO) – January 12, 2016 – The Dayton Art Institute has announced its special exhibition schedule for 2016. The “Year of the Elements” features an innovative suite of exhibitions of contemporary art, all organized by The Dayton Art Institute, and themed around the classical elements—fire, air, earth, water and ether.

These originally conceived exhibitions explore the elements through the concept of the sublime, creating engaging visual experiences that will illuminate the primal, yet shifting, relationships we have with the elements via nature. From light installations and interactive video works, to large-scale photography, viewers will be presented with immersive and unique experiences that will ignite the imagination and encourage participation.

“The deeply interactive works featured in this series of exhibitions are a powerful testament to the advancement of and growing interest in digital art as well as its unique ability to nurture creativity and curiosity through technology and we are thrilled to be able to bring them to the greater Dayton community,” comments The Dayton Art Institute’s Chief Curator and Curator of European Art, Aimee Marcereau DeGalan.

Into the Ether: Contemporary Light Artists
April 2–June 26, 2016
The year of the elements begins with Into the Ether: Contemporary Light Artists, highlighting fire, air and ether through an investigation of light, a primary aesthetic principle in art. Grounded by the Light and Space movement of the 1960s in California, Into the Ether features artists who examine atmospheric changes, human perception, and individual experiences. Showcasing the work of contemporary artists James Turrell, Robert Irwin, Leo Villareal, Erwin Redl, Daniel Rozin, and Diane Willow, the exhibition showcases experiments with immersive environments and atmospheric qualities, creating unique experiences for each museum patron.
The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water
July 16–October 16, 2016
The summer suite of exhibitions will feature two installations in different parts of the museum, highlighting the many forms of the classical element water: frozen across the expansive and rocky terrain of the Perito Moreno glacier in Argentina; implied in a colony of 450 mechanized penguins who frequently cavort and play in its icy depths; and free-flowing in an over-12-foot digital waterfall.

The Antarctic Sublime
This exhibition features a colony of 450 mechanized penguins by contemporary artist Daniel Rozin. These automated birds interact with visitors in ways that will both surprise and delight. As creatures of the Antarctic terrain, and highly adaptive to life in water, the inclusion of the penguins not only provides another immersive and responsive environment for visitors, but also offers an opportunity to further explore Antarctic regions and their climate shifts, ideas of natural selection, and the randomness of genetic drift.

Elements of Nature: Water
In conjunction with The Antarctic Sublime, The DAI will also present a single, monumental photograph by Berlin-based artist Frank Thiel of the Perito Moreno glacier. Thiel created large-format images to capture the immense scale of the 18-mile-long by three-mile-wide formation, located in the Los Glaciares National Park in Patagonia, Argentina, which is one of the few glaciers in the world that is growing. Thiel’s large-scale photograph recalls the sublime landscapes painted by members of the Hudson River School, which frequently represented the powerful drama and overwhelming scale of nature and human’s small place within that terrain. Similarly, the monumentality of Thiel’s photograph places the viewer in a related context and invites them to question the transient nature of what is around them, while also providing the opportunity to discuss the fragility of man in the face of nature’s awesome might and simultaneously emphasizing man’s hubris and determination.

Complementing this installation is 12-foot video projection of a waterfall by the Japanese interdisciplinary technology group, teamLab, titled Universe of Water Particles (2013). Informed by the tradition of ancient Japanese Art, ukiyo-e woodblock prints, and contemporary forms of anime, the Universe of Water Particles demonstrates teamLab’s keen interest in the transcendental qualities of water and the combination of both two and three-dimensional space in digital form. Exhibited alongside selections of The Dayton Art Institute’s strong collection of Edo period ukiyo-e woodblock prints, visitors will see a source of great influence alongside the morphing beauty of the immersive waterfall and be able to explore the associated pioneering and intellectual concepts of these technologists at work, as well as the mesmerizing innovative capabilities at play.

Ravaged Sublime: Landscape Photography in the 21st Century
October 15, 2016–January 8, 2017
The year of the elements concludes with Ravaged Sublime: Landscape Photography in the 21st Century. Showcasing the work of contemporary photographers Edward Burtynsky and Richard Mosse, the exhibition reveals the continued interest in sublime landscapes, but with a shift in artist intent and tone. Utilizing similar visual techniques as nineteenth-century landscape photographers, these large-scale photographs demonstrate the tantalizing draw we still have towards landscape imagery while showing human traces and impact via industrial expansion and conflict that ravage these landscapes.
“Our curatorial team has put together a one-of-a-kind series of exhibitions that you will only be able to experience here at your Dayton Art Institute,” says Director and CEO Michael R. Roediger. “As we begin the countdown to the museum’s centennial in 2019, many exciting things are in store for 2016. I hope you will join us for the ‘Year of the Elements,’ as well as the many other events and programs taking place throughout the year at The DAI.”

The beginning of the new year is the perfect time to become a member of The Dayton Art Institute. Memberships start at just $40 and provide free admission to all of these special exhibitions (as well as the current special exhibition, American Sampler: Grandma Moses and the Handicraft Tradition, which continues through February 21), unlimited visits to the permanent collection, free admission to jazz concerts, discounts at The Museum Store and Leo Bistro, discounts on events and programs, and reciprocal access to 14 other Ohio art museums.

For more information about the 2016 special exhibitions and museum membership, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Leo Bistro serves lunch Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4:30 – 8 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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