DAYTON ART INSTITUTE TO FEATURE MEDIEVAL ALABASTER SCULPTURE FROM LONDON’S VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Special exhibition Object of Devotion opens October 26; Companion exhibition features contemporary sculptor Elizabeth Turk

(DAYTON, OHIO) – October 15, 2013 – The Dayton Art Institute’s next special exhibition will feature a spectacular collection of medieval alabaster sculpture from London’s distinguished Victoria and Albert Museum. In conjunction with the exhibition, The DAI will also display work by contemporary marble sculptor Elizabeth Turk.

Both Object of Devotion: Medieval English Alabaster Sculpture from the Victoria and Albert Museum and Elizabeth Turk: Wings open Saturday, October 26, and will be on view through January 5, 2014.

“We are delighted to bring this world-class collection of medieval alabasters from London to Dayton, as well as work by MacArthur fellow award-winner Elizabeth Turk, as they support our mission to enrich lives and serve the community by creating meaningful experiences with art,” Dayton Art Institute Executive Director Michael R. Roediger said.

Object of Devotion features 60 beautifully carved devotional alabaster panels and free-standing figures from the most distinguished collection of these types of objects in the world. Originally displayed in the homes, chapels, and churches of both aristocratic and non-aristocratic Christians from the late 14th to the mid-16th centuries, they offer an unrivalled glimpse into the spiritual lives, hopes, fears, and religious aspirations of society during the Middle Ages.

England was home to a thriving art industry that produced religious alabaster sculpture in large numbers and exported them to virtually every country in Europe. Despite the success and scale of this industry, however, English alabasters have remained a neglected art form. Softer and easier to carve than marble, English alabaster’s translucent glow and creamy, yellow-ocher finish resembles flesh and therefore was considered a more intimate stone than marble or continental alabaster. These qualities facilitated a human connection with these devotional objects, and The Dayton Art Institute is pleased to bring this fascinating subject to the attention of a wider audience.
In addition, the exhibition will also feature a selection of rare medieval books and manuscripts on loan from a local collector, as well as medieval tapestries from The DAI’s permanent collection.

For more information about Object of Devotion, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/devotion.

Shown in conjunction with Object of Devotion is an exhibition of contemporary marble sculptor Elizabeth Turk’s marble wings, entitled Elizabeth Turk: Wings. Conceived on the eve of the millennium and carved from abandoned remnants of marble blocks cut for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., these wings are extraordinary examples of skill and reflect an artist thinking deeply about our place within the universe. The marble sculptures will be shown with a series of related drawings and collages that were never plans for creation, but rather a way to ruminate over bringing together overarching concepts and tones.

For more information about Elizabeth Turk: Wings, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/wings.

“The unique pairing of exhibitions offers a lens through which to consider ideas of faith and devotion, and how that aspect of our lives continues to be relevant today and yet can encompass so many different forms,” Dayton Art Institute Curator of Collections and Exhibitions Aimee Marcereau DeGalan said.

A number of related programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibitions. These include a special museum-members-only preview event with Elizabeth Turk on Friday, October 25, 6-8 p.m., and a public talk by Turk on Saturday, October 26, at 2 p.m. Other related programs include: the Prime Time Party Rental Series Renaissance Ball on November 15; To Stir Man’s Affection and Heart to Devotion: Alabaster Images in the Late Medieval Church, a talk by medieval art expert Dr. Stephen Perkinson on November 16; and the gallery talk Medieval Attitudes Toward Religion on December 28.

Admission to the exhibitions is free for museum members; $12 adults; $9 seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more); and $6 youth (ages 7-17). Children (6 & under) are free. Prices include admission to both special exhibitions and the museum’s permanent collection. A $1 per transaction Historic Preservation Fee will be added to all ticket sales.

Docent-led tours of the special exhibition are available for individuals, groups and schools. Contact Group Sales and Tour Coordinator Donna Young, at 937-512-0152 or dyoung@daytonart.org, for more information or to book a tour.

Object of Devotion is presented at The Dayton Art Institute with support from Patron Sponsors the Rose Family Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton Foundation and the University of Dayton, as well as Supporting Sponsors Grace L. DeVelbiss and Miller-Valentine Group, with special support from Father Joseph Goetz and special support in honor of Father Joseph Goetz from Dr. and Mrs. C. Patrick Carroll, Sue Doody & Family, Maureen Lynch and Richard Lapedes, Linda and John Lombard, Diana and Jon Sebaly, Connie and John Taylor, Jacque and Brad Tillson and Dr. Suzanne E. Russ-Yanes and Dr. Basel Yanes, with additional support from Eubel Brady Suttman Asset Management Inc.

Object of Devotion is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, Virginia. The exhibition is supported by a grant from The Samuel H. Kress Foundation. His Excellency Sir Nigel Sheinwald, formerly Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America is Honorary Patron of the exhibition.
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Elizabeth Turk: Wings is organized by The Dayton Art Institute and made possible by the support of an anonymous donor.

For more information about this and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram 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. Galleries hours are Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, 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 and Leo Bistro are open during regular museum hours. 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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