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SEVEN MUSEUMS, SEVEN SINS **First-time Exhibition Slated for 2015**

May 5, 2015—*The Seven Deadly Sins*, a groundbreaking series of exhibitions with openings through July, will be presented by seven arts institutions, all members of the Fairfield/Westchester Museum Alliance (FWMA), located in Fairfield County, CT, Westchester County, NY, and the New York City borough of the Bronx. The seven cultural institutions are: The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; Bruce Museum; Hudson River Museum; Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art; Katonah Museum of Art; Neuberger Museum of Art; and, Wave Hill. *The Seven Deadly Sins* represents the first collaboration among the FWMA museums.

FWMA museums formed an alliance in 2009 to share resources to promote cultural life in the region and offer reciprocal benefits to their members. *The Seven Deadly Sins*, FWMA's inaugural exhibition, is offered to the public at large; the members of FWMA institutions are admitted free to *Seven Deadly Sin* exhibitions and programs.

Each of the FWMA institutions explores one of the seven deadly sins — a hardcore group of despised actions that for centuries defined what humans must not do to live good lives. The litany of sins is as familiar to us now as to past generations — **Envy, Gluttony, Greed, Lust, Pride, Sloth, and Wrath** —and, each sin is often contrasted with a contrary virtue: Kindness, Temperance, Charity, Chastity, Humility, and Diligence, whose practice protects us from the ever present temptation to sin. The “Deadly Seven,” the favorite subject of painters and poets over centuries, is woven into the warp and weft of the Western world's cultural allusions. Sin, committed by individuals and by communities, looms large in contemporary life just as it did in ancient times.

Through exhibitions and programming, the FWMA institutions ask you to consider what sin is as they seek to show it in many guises and in a variety of mediums. From the Old Masters to contemporary art, from Dante to Catherine Opie, viewers see a human's capability for sin, and probe their own ability to live in a world littered with evil that springs from wars to lascivious private delights. America's poet Emily Dickinson, writing from Amherst, Massachusetts, a town not usually regarded as a New World Gomorrah, recognized temptation's prevalence: “Imps in eager caucus, Raffle for my soul.”(*Rouge et Noir*)

The Seven Deadly Sins, 2015

Exhibition Descriptions and “Sinful Weekend” Program Dates

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Ridgefield, CT)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth July 19 - October 18, 2015

Sloth, the Aldrich's contribution, is a collaborative project organized by artist Mats Bigert and *Cabinet* magazine editor-in-chief Sina Najafi. Utilizing the first floor and porch of The Aldrich's historic “Old Hundred” building that dates from 1783, Bigert and Hajafi will not address *Sloth* thematically, instead opting to advance human under-

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standing by inhabiting the sin. Using the latest Western technologies—including Bob-O-Pedic recliners, video, television monitors, gin, ice, and tonic—Bigert and Najafi will offer The Aldrich’s visitors the chance to armchair travel to the other six venues. No need to go all the way to Katonah! (And where exactly *is* Wave Hill?). Put aside that map, put up your feet, and learn about the other sins, thanks to the diligent curators at the other six institutions. And *Sloth*? Well, by the time you have sunk into the deep folds of one of the exhibition’s recliners, we think that you, too, will have come to know and love this most excellent of sins.

Aldrich Sinful Weekend: September 19

www.aldrichart.org Director: Alyson Baker

Bruce Museum (Greenwich, CT)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Pride June 27 - October 18, 2015

The Bruce Museum presents **Pride**, the sin of arrogance. This mother of all sins is characterized by the desire to be exceptional. Join us as we explore the dazzling, dizzying heights of mankind’s hubris and vanity — as well as the resultant cataclysmic falls — through objects of art and material culture from the Renaissance into the contemporary period. Humans are not alone in being implicated in the sin of pride; peacocks and lions have also been symbols of the sin. This study of exquisite master prints, drawings, paintings, rare books, and a video installation will demonstrate the breadth and endurance of the imagery of this deadly sin.

Bruce Sinful Weekend: July 18 & 19

<https://brucemuseum.org> Director: Peter C. Sutton

Hudson River Museum (Yonkers, NY)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy, *An Installation by Adrien Broom* June 6 - September 26, 2015

The smoldering “green-eyed monster” **Envy**, the most corrosive of the seven sins, makes its appearance at the Hudson River Museum. A sin that does not usually give pleasure, it implies, instead, resentment of others and, by extension, dissatisfaction with oneself. Multimedia artist Adrien Broom creates a Web of Envy with glimpses of objects that have always stimulated envious desire; a Gallery of Fairy Tales, peopled by characters whose envy for what others enjoy enlivens age-old stories; and, a photography series, the Colors of Life signals the virtues, contrary to sin, of kindness, curiosity, and transformation.

Hudson River Museum Sinful Weekend: June 27 & 28

hrm.org Director: Michael Botwinick

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (Peekskill, NY)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Lust April 19 - July 26, 2015

The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary art portrays **Lust** in overt imagery, specifically as it applies to sexual relations. Artists create paintings, videos, and photographs exploring the raw eroticism of a heterosexual, cross gender and homosexual model that echo the rawness of the Kama Sutra. Catherine Opie’s *Pieta* borders on religious ecstasy, while Larry Clark’s *Tulsa Series* documents raw sex within a drug-ridden culture of lost youth. In staging this exhibition, works are chosen that present this cross section and that speak to a hard-edged artistic approach to lust for “lust’s sake,” while powerfully portraying that which motivates us to seek the comfort of another.

HVCCA Sinful Weekend: April 19

www.Hvcca.org Director: Livia Straus

Katonah Museum of Art (Katonah, NY)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony, Emilie Clark — *The Delicacy of Decomposition* July 12- September 6, 2015

The Katonah Museum of Art project leverages the idea of **Gluttony** – a term expressing excessive self-indulgence as well as over-consumption – as a springboard for a special installation by the artist Emilie Clark. This one-person project explores the complex interconnectivity of consumption, waste, decay, and regeneration. Using her family’s preserved food waste – from egg shells to desiccated tangerines to fish heads in a jar, Clark turns our attention to food at its most elemental level. Belied by their waste-based content, Clark’s installations hold a quality of old-world still life paintings. Clark was born and raised in San Francisco and currently works in New York.

Katonah Sinful Weekend: July 25 & 26

Katonahmuseum.org Director: Darsie Alexander

Neuberger Museum of Art (Purchase, NY)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed, *GOLD* July 12 - October 11, 2015

The Neuberger Museum of Art of Purchase College joins the Fairfield Westchester Museum Alliance’s project *The Seven Deadly Sins* in which each participating museum organizes an exhibition around one of the sins. The Neuberger’s sin is greed, and its exhibition is titled *GOLD*, a subject that has fascinated artists for centuries. *GOLD* explores the many ideas about this material set forth by 24 of the best known contemporary artists working in the United States and abroad. The artists, ranging from Sylvie Fleury and Robin Rhode to Chris Burden and Sherrie Levine, physically or conceptually use gold in their practice to reinforce or challenge notions of transformation, beauty, spirituality, and economic, and moral values. *GOLD* is organized for the Neuberger Museum of Art by the Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, and curated by Bass Curator of Exhibitions José Carlos Diaz.

Neuberger Sinful Weekend: July 12

<https://www.neuberger.org> Director: Tracy Fitzpatrick

Wave Hill (Bronx, NY)

The Seven Deadly Sins: Wrath, *Force of Nature* June 7 - September 7, 2015

In times of environmental uncertainty, the phrase “Wrath of God” has long been invoked as an explanation. A collective anxiety is rising in the wake of more frequent tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, droughts and forest fires. Faced with these uncontrollable forces, gardens like Wave Hill become sanctuaries. This exhibition features contemporary artists who are concerned with “the wrath of nature.” The show will emphasize, though not exclusively, painterly depictions of natural disaster, often in an expressive tone or in an allegorical frame. Whether the selected artists focus on emotional states or respond to recent events, they explore the precariousness of the contemporary world. We are exhibiting artists who have a long-term interest in picturing cataclysmic forces, including Diane Burko, Brian Adam Douglas, Angela Dufresne, Julie Heffernan, Amer Kobaslija, Kent Monkman, David Opdyke, Anne Peabody, Jon Rappleye and Alexis Rockman.

Wave Hill Sinful Weekend: August 8 & 9

wavehill.org Director: Claudia Bonn