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Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art to Relocate to Heart of Denver's Golden Triangle

Ground has been broken

DENVER, Co. September 10, 2015...Over 450 guests joined Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock today for the groundbreaking of the new Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art located at 12th Avenue and Bannock Street, near the Denver Art Museum and Clyfford Still Museum. Additional remarks were made by Hugh Grant, Kirkland Museum Founding Director & Curator; Merle Chambers, Chambers Family Fund Founder and President, Tom Noel (Dr. Colorado) and Architect Jim Olson, FAIA, Principal, Olson Kundig. In honor of the signature Dot Paintings of the museum's namesake Vance Kirkland (1904–1981), guests were invited to paint a dot of their own. The larger building, expected to open in 2017, will offer visitors an enhanced experience while staying true to the salon style and intimate atmosphere for which the Kirkland is known.

Kirkland Museum's three collections are:

- **Colorado & Regional Art** – The largest repository of art showcasing the state and region's talent, concentrating on the 1850s through the 1990s. About 700 works by 235 artists are shown, drawing from a collection of more than 600 artists and over 6,000 works.
- **International Decorative Art** – Considered one of the most important design collections displayed in any North American museum, totals over 16,000 objects with over 3,500 on view from every major design period from Arts & Crafts to Postmodern.
- **Vance Kirkland Retrospective** – Kirkland (1904–1981) is considered Colorado's most distinguished modern painter. About 550 paintings and about 600 drawings and prints are held with 54 works currently on view.

Central to the move, Vance Kirkland's 1910–1911 Art School & Studio building will be relocated to Bannock Street and oriented in the same direction. “A more modern building—the new Kirkland Museum—will set off the older Arts & Crafts studio,” noted Grant.

Seattle-based architects Olson Kundig has designed the new 38,500 square foot museum. Stated Grant, “Olson Kundig is known for designing many extraordinary residences displaying major art collections. Because Kirkland Museum is displayed salon style, with the feeling of being in a home, their design sensibility is a good fit.” Olson Kundig's museum projects include the Lightcatcher at the

Whatcom Museum (Bellingham, Washington), Tacoma Art Museum's Haub Wing, along with the redesign of Tacoma Art Museum's plaza and entry sequence.

Kirkland Museum will remain open at 1311 Pearl Street until mid-2016. For more information on Kirkland Museum, please visit www.kirklandmuseum.org.

Images are available upon request.

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