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University of **NOTRE DAME**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Snite Museum Tackles Money Angst in New Exhibition

Money Worries

On view January 21–March 25, 2018

Notre Dame, IN – December 11, 2017 – “Thinking about money, and money itself, has the power to evoke despair,” wrote Michael Phillips in his 1974 book *The Seven Laws of Money*. That observation was the starting point for a new exhibition, *Money Worries*, on view at the Snite Museum of Art January 21 through March 25.

Co-organized by an anthropologist, a professor of French, a curator, a local numismatist, and an emerging technologies librarian, the exhibition includes old master and contemporary paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, antique and modern currencies from Europe, America, and Africa in addition to interactive games that encourage visitors to reimagine money and their relationship to it.

A case at the entrance of the gallery displaying bank notes from revolutionary France, pre-World War II Germany, antebellum Indiana, and even The Walt Disney Company reveals the arbitrary way that value is assigned and wealth is designated. The beautifully illustrated, colorful notes introduce concepts such as hyperinflation, micro-currencies, and the whitewashing of colonial exploitation.



Using radically anachronistic juxtapositions, the curators arranged a section on portraits acknowledging their use as a form of cultural currency that signals political and social capital, culminating in the ubiquitous “selfie” and the accumulation of “likes” on social media. Julia Douthwaite Viglione, professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Notre Dame and guest co-

curator, explained, “The purpose of the exhibition is to foreground money as a gauge of our value and to disrupt visitors’ received notions of wealth.”

Other sections of the exhibition explore banks as temples to money and financial transactions, such as paying taxes or tithes, that are evidence of how relationships between the classes are structured.

The curators invite visitors to play games featuring money, one designed specifically for this exhibition. The digital game *Spent* is available online and allows players to run through microeconomic simulations of urban living to test their ability to manage money. In addition, Randal Harrison, emerging technologies librarian at the University of Notre Dame’s Hesburgh Libraries, custom redesigned a board game called *Landlord* that recognizes inequalities built into our economic system. Players assume different statuses, start with different amounts of money, and use different dice with varying numbers on them so they move around the board at various paces. Set in a gallery with glass walls, the players themselves become part of the exhibition on display for passersby to behold and contemplate.

Caption: Artemio Rodriguez (Mexican, b. 1972), *Avarice*, 2005, screenprint, 33.75 x 33.25 inches. Snite Museum of Art: Gift of Dr. Gilberto Cardenas, 2011.045.069. [For additional images, contact gcosta@nd.edu.]

Programs: Lecture: Iris Moon, Assistant Curator in the Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. “Precious Metals in the Age of Terror: Goldsmiths at Work During the French Revolution.” February 6, 2018. 5 p.m. Annenberg Auditorium. Co-sponsored with the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. Lecture: Bill Maurer, Director, Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion at the University of California, Irvine, March 7, 5 p.m., Annenberg Auditorium. Co-sponsored with the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; and noon–5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574-631-5466 or at the Museum’s website: sniteartmuseum.nd.edu. Driving directions and parking information are available at <http://nd.edu/visitors/directions/>. Find us at inthebend.com and facebook.com.

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As a department of the University of Notre Dame, the museum supports teaching and research, creates and shares knowledge, celebrates diversity through the visual arts, serves the local community and explores spiritual dimensions of art.

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