



Media Contact:

Jerry Beck, Director of Marketing & Community
Engagement Museum 978-345-4207 ext. 312
Cell Phone: 978-590-3759
Email: jbeck@fitchburgartmuseum.org
Web: fitchburgartmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Internationally-recognized stone sculptor Nora Valdez brings her
“Baggage” to Fitchburg Art Museum as part of a one-person
exhibition of sculpture and drawings**

Opening Reception, Sunday, June 23, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Artist talk, Saturday, August 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The exhibition will be on view from June 23– September 1, 2013

Fitchburg, MA. -- Nora Valdez is a contemporary artist who is best known as a stone carver. She sculpts the human figure and related objects in symbolic narratives, often informed by the subconscious world of dreams. Her work also reflects her nomadic life. Valdez was born in Argentina, but has lived and worked in Brazil, Italy, Spain, and across the United States. She has created public art, monuments, outdoor sculptures, and museum and gallery exhibitions in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

This exhibition features the artist’s recent body of work: interrelated sculptures and drawings on an intimate scale that address universal ideas and feelings centered on the immigrant experience. Both hard, textured stone, and delicate drawings on paper and canvas, evoke the conditions of travel, transition, and displacement. The image of the bag recurs throughout the exhibition as a metaphor of both container and contents: a suitcase stuffed with personal effects, as well as a body enveloping a mind (and heart), in turn filled with memory, loss, hope, desire, anxiety, and above all – dreams.

Nora Valdez's work is most appropriate for Fitchburg, a city shaped by successive waves of immigration. This summer, Valdez will create a permanent immigration memorial in Fitchburg, at the corner of Main Street and Pritchard Street as part of the Main Street Arts Project.

Nora Valdez won First Prize in last summer's 77th Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft. Each year, the First Prize winner will be awarded a solo exhibition for the following summer at the Fitchburg Art Museum.

Attached images:

Nora Valdez, *Baggage*, Indiana limestone, 2009, Private Collection.

Picture of Nora Valdez carving her sculpture in Zhengzhou, China, 2008, Collection of Sias International University. Photo by Persi Narvaez

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The Fitchburg Art Museum is one of the most treasured cultural institutions in Central New England and serves the Cities of Fitchburg and Leominster and surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.

Museum Hours: Wednesday – Friday, Noon – 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am – 5 pm.

Admission: Free for members, children 12 years and under, Fitchburg State University and Fitchburg Public School Students, Faculty & Staff, and to Fitchburg Residents of Ward 4 B. \$9 for adults, \$5 for seniors (62 plus).

Fitchburg Art Museum is **free** from 4.00 p.m. – 7 p.m. every first Thursday of the month.

The Museum is wheelchair accessible.

Info: Call 978 345-4207 or visit www.fitchburgartmuseum.org

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