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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Profound. Insightful. Poignant. Humorous.

YOUR VOICES: ON MOTHERHOOD

An online exhibition with worldwide perspectives...

In the United States alone, the demographics and attitudes about motherhood have changed significantly over the last ten years. According to a study by Gretchen Livingston and D'Vera Cohn of the Pew Research Center,¹ demographics such as age, marital status, race and ethnicity, education, and behavioral factors such as the reason to have children and decisions to have children later in life, reflect a complex shift in ideas about motherhood.

The **International Museum of Women's (IMOW)** online exhibition ***Your Voices: On Motherhood*** is an entirely global-community-driven showcase exposing these types of shifts worldwide, and will be launched **November 15, 2011**. The juried exhibition represents the diverse voices, experiences, struggles and successes of women throughout the world as they relate to motherhood. IMOW's global call for submissions brought in almost 600 entries in a variety of media and perspectives from every continent around the world!

The ***Your Voices: On Motherhood*** exhibition presents the creativity and experiences of mothers from more than 20 countries. IMOW selected the top 30 submissions to include in the exhibition. From these 30 works, a global jury will select 5 finalists from which a Community Choice Award winner will be chosen in January 2012. IMOW will roll out new stories every two weeks through January 2012.

The exhibition features profound, insightful, poignant and humorous perspectives on being a "good mom," trying to conceive, breastfeeding, fatherhood, human rights, maternal health and much more.

Photographer Kate Wilhelm (Canada) uses roller derby to examine how real women contradict and conform to traditional gender codes in their identities as women and as mothers in her photo series called *Yes These Bones Shall Live: Exploring Motherhood and Identity*. Mixed-media artist V. Kottavei Williams (US) depicts mothers as powerful, vibrant, and engaged in her painting series *Us, Through Our Own Eyes*. In *Afterbirth*, singer/songwriter Paula Obe (Trinidad and Tobago) captures the beauty of motherhood and of women. This song/poem celebrates

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Obe's grandmother and mother, acknowledging their struggle and accepting the truth that although many things have changed and much progress has been made, many limitations still exist for women.

The International Museum of Women (www.imow.org) is an innovative global online museum that uses technology to showcase art, ideas and stories that celebrate, inspire and advance the lives of women around the world.

Notes: ¹ "The New Demography of American Motherhood," Cohn, D'Vera and Livingston, Gretchen. Pew Research Center, 2010