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**Polasek Museum Announces “Summer of Love: Reflections on Pulse” Exhibit  
*Diverse Works Honor Victims on One-Year Anniversary with Images of Life, Beauty, and Love***

WINTER PARK, Fla. – A night of tragedy inspired a new exhibit, “Summer of Love: Reflections on Pulse” which opens at the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens on May 9 and runs through September 3, 2017. The museum is proud to host this exhibition, the result of an open call to artists to comment on the one-year anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting and the idea of love transcending hate. The response to the artists’ call proved tangibly that the world was moved by this horrific event and by the remarkable way Orlando responded with an outpouring of unity and an emphasis on inclusivity. Accepted artwork comes from many local artists but also includes pieces from outside of Florida and the United States. The pieces selected are incredibly diverse in medium and subject matter.

“The museum’s founder, Albin Polasek, believed that artists have a duty to preserve culturally significant events through their art,” said Polasek Museum Curator Rachel Frisby. “We are proud to exhibit the work of contemporary artists in the Polasek Gallery and bring these new voices and talents to the community. Approaching the one-year anniversary of this horrific event, we choose to honor the victims by marking this date with a celebration of life, beauty, art and love. “

This exhibit showcases deeply personal stories that have been translated into meaningful artistic expressions and asks viewers to contemplate, as the artist have done, what moves and uplifts them and how they visually interpret love or brotherhood.

This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the iconic “Summer of Love,” which took place in San Francisco in 1967; a fitting name for this exhibition as the Polasek Museum stands collectively with the firm belief that art has the power to transcend hate.

**About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens:** Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens holds an art collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture, with more than 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. The museum offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden and a gift shop. The museum was the retirement home of Polasek until his death in 1965. Polasek was a 2004 Florida Artists Hall of Fame recipient, and his home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and re-opened to the public as an event and meeting space in 2015.

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