



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, TO CELEBRATE OPENING  
OF ART OF THE AMERICAS WING WITH FREE COMMUNITY DAY ON NOVEMBER 20**

**MFA Director Malcolm Rogers to Welcome Visitors during Opening Ceremony**

BOSTON, MA (November 12, 2010)—The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), will celebrate the opening of its new Art of the Americas Wing with a free Community Day on Saturday, November 20—the first day that the new wing will be open to the public. Doors to the Museum will open at 10:00 a.m., followed by an Opening Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the Museum’s new Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard, where Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the MFA, will welcome visitors. Doors to the new wing will open at 11:00 a.m. Activities are planned throughout the day until the Museum closes at 9:45 p.m., including a performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Hawthorne String Quartet. To mark this moment in the Museum’s history, November 20 has been proclaimed “MFA Day” in the City of Boston by the Honorable Thomas M. Menino, Mayor. The opening of *The New MFA* is sponsored by Bank of America.

At the MFA’s Community Day, children from several Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston—longstanding partners in the Museum’s Community Arts Initiative—will arrive in style in a Boston Duck Tours boat parade at the MFA’s Huntington Avenue circle. The children will be the first to enter the Museum when the doors open at 10:00 a.m., followed by the first 500 visitors. Visitors in line at the Huntington Avenue entrance will be entertained by the Boston University Pep Band. Those in line at the Museum’s State Street Corporation Fenway Entrance will see Boston’s Hot Tamale Brass Band perform. Warm apple cider will be served that morning at both entrances, and MFA-logo temporary tattoos will be distributed. (*Please Note:* Visitors are encouraged to leave large bags and backpacks at home.)

**Opening Ceremony**

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The Opening Ceremony in the Shapiro Family Courtyard will begin at 10:30 a.m. Trumpet flourishes will introduce remarks by Rogers, followed by the singing of “America the Beautiful” by members of New England Conservatory’s Millennium Gospel Choir and Boston University’s Inner Strength Choir. The MFA’s Teen Arts Council will present the American flag. Rogers will then open the doors to the wing at 11:00 a.m. and invite visitors to tour the galleries.

This will be the first opportunity for the general public to view the Museum’s expansion—the wing for the Art of the Americas and the Shapiro Family Courtyard—designed by Foster + Partners (London). The wing is dedicated to the art of all of the Americas—North, Central, and South—spanning three millennia, from ancient times through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It features 5,000 works in 53 galleries, which include nine period rooms and four Behind the Scenes galleries.

### **Wayfinding**

To help visitors find their way around the Museum, new signage has been created and new MFA maps will be available in English and several other languages. In addition, MFA staff, volunteers, Teen Arts Council, and College Ambassadors, all wearing distinctive red MFA apparel, will assist visitors with navigation throughout the Museum.

### **Activities for Adults and Families**

Spotlight Talks about works of art in the Art of the Americas Wing will be presented by curators and educators in the galleries every half hour during the Community Day, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. American Sign Language interpreters and Access Guides will be on hand to assist people with disabilities. Multimedia guides offering tours of artworks for adults and children, will be available for rental (\$5 for members, \$6 for the general public, and \$4 for children). The guides include images and narration for more than 500 works, as well as videos of curators and artists; collection highlights are translated into Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, and Japanese. The guides also incorporate special features for those who are blind, have low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing.

Family art-making activities will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. A scavenger hunt, “Passport to the Americas,” will begin in the Shapiro Family Courtyard and the adventure will continue throughout the new wing. In addition, engaging “Art Connections” cards will enable children to discover thematic objects—from barnyard animals and flowers to dogs and chocolate—found in works of art from many cultures. Visitors of all ages will also be invited to try watercolor painting in the wing’s new studio art

classrooms. They can watch a short video featuring Malcolm Rogers in the new Barbara and Theodore Alford Auditorium presenting an overview of the new Art of the Americas Wing. Visitors can also enjoy spectacular views of Boston from the glass-enclosed walkways near the Behind the Scenes galleries on Levels 1 and 2 of the wing.

Musical entertainment paying tribute to the Americas will be presented at 6:00 p.m. in the Shapiro Family Courtyard. Nineteen-year-old cello virtuoso Anthony Rymer and pianist Zenan Yu will perform Astor Piazzolla's *Le Grand Tango*. They will be followed by the Hawthorne String Quartet, made up of musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra—Si-Jing Huang and Ronan Lefkowitz, violins; Mark Ludwig, viola; and Sato Knudsen, cello—who will perform music from Charles Ives's *Quartet No. 1, From the Salvation Army*; David Post's *Quartet No. 3*; and Thomas Oboe Lee's *Morango...Almost a Tango*.

### **Exhibitions on View**

Visitors to the Museum on Community Day will be among the first to see ***Fresh Ink: Ten Takes on Chinese Tradition\****, the inaugural exhibition in the MFA's new Ann and Graham Gund Gallery, for which 10 leading contemporary Chinese and Chinese-American artists have created new works in response to masterpieces in the Museum's collection. A tour of the special exhibition is available on the multimedia guides. Additional exhibitions will be on view throughout the Museum, which features newly renovated Egyptian, European, Greek and Roman Sculpture, and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Art galleries.

### **Dining**

On Community Day, visitors can enjoy the Museum's four dining venues, including the *New American Café*, located in the Shapiro Family Courtyard:

- ***Garden Cafeteria*** \$ (self service)—10:00 a.m.– 8:30 p.m., Level G, Linde Family Wing
- ***The Galleria*** \$ (self service)—11:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m., Level 1, Linde Family Wing
- ***New American Café*** \$\$ (table service)—11:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m., Level 1, Shapiro Family Courtyard
- ***Bravo*** \$\$\$ (table service)—11:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m., Level 2, Linde Family Wing

*Dining hours listed are for November 20 only.*

## Shopping

- **Museum Shops**

The Museum offers three locations where visitors can shop for MFA and art-related gifts. The original Museum Bookstore & Shop is located in the Linde Family Wing (Level 1), and two new shops are now open at the Huntington Avenue Entrance and adjacent to the new Ann and Graham Gund Gallery (LG).

- **The Museum School Art Sale**

Noon–6:00 p.m., School of the Museum of Fine Arts (230 The Fenway, Boston)

This annual sale is a great opportunity to purchase original works of art by SMFA students and acclaimed alumni.

## Getting to the MFA

The MFA expects large crowds on Community Day and recommends using public transportation, accessible by taking the Green line E train to the MFA stop, the Orange line to the Ruggles stop, or bus #39 to the MFA stop, or #8, 47, or CT2 buses to the Ruggles Street stop. For driving directions, please go to [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org). Limited parking is available in the surface parking lots and the Museum garage on Museum Road.

**Please see attached “Schedule of Events” for Community Day activities. For more information please visit [www.mfa.org/press](http://www.mfa.org/press).**

*\*Fresh Ink: Ten Takes on Chinese Tradition is presented in collaboration with The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. Generous corporate sponsorship is provided by United Technologies Corporation. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Artist residencies have been supported in part by the Asian Cultural Council.*

**Free Community Day at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**  
**Saturday, November 20, 2010**  
**10:00 a.m. — 9:45 p.m.**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

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- 9:00–10:30 a.m.** Boston University Pep Band entertains visitors at MFA’s Huntington Avenue entrance; Hot Tamale Brass Band performs at State Street Corporation Fenway Entrance.
- 10:00 a.m.** Doors open at Huntington Avenue entrance and State Street Corporation Fenway Entrance. Children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, arriving on Duck boats, are the first to enter followed by the first 500 visitors.
- 10:30–11:00 a.m.** Opening Ceremony takes place in Shapiro Family Courtyard. MFA Director Malcolm Rogers welcomes visitors to the new wing for the Art of the Americas. Members of the New England Conservatory’s Millennium Gospel Choir and Boston University’s Inner Strength Choir sing “America the Beautiful.” The Museum’s Teen Arts Council presents American flag.
- 11:00 a.m.** Doors open to the Art of the Americas Wing; visitors are invited to tour the galleries in the wing and the rest of the Museum.
- 11:00 a.m.–8:30 p.m.** Spotlight Talks are presented in the galleries every half hour.
- 11:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.** Activities for families include:
- “Passport to the Americas” scavenger hunt in the galleries
  - “Art Connections” cards to help children discover objects in art—from dogs to chocolate
  - Watercolor painting in the new studio art classrooms
- 6:00 p.m.** Musical Performances:
- Nineteen-year-old cello virtuoso Anthony Rymer and pianist Zenan Yu perform Astor Piazzolla’s *Le Grand Tango* in the Shapiro Family Courtyard
  - Followed by the Hawthorne String Quartet, featuring Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians, performing an all-American repertoire: Charles Ives’s Quartet No. 1, *From the Salvation Army*; David Post’s Quartet No. 3; and Thomas Oboe Lee’s *Morango...Almost a Tango*
- Ongoing**
- Dining in four Museum restaurants, including the New American Café
  - The Museum School Art Sale and shopping in three MFA retail venues
  - A short video featuring Malcolm Rogers in the new Barbara and Theodore Alford Auditorium
  - Multimedia guides offering tours for adults and children