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MFA TO PRESENT 'CONTEMPORARY THURSDAYS' AND A VARIETY OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTING CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

BOSTON, MA (September 15, 2011)—With the unveiling of the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art, the MFA is offering an exciting range of fun programs and educational opportunities to enhance visitors' appreciation of contemporary culture in all of its forms. Among the highlights is an evening of film and music on October 14 featuring *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, filmmaker Brent Green's love story that brings to life Leonard Wood's desperate attempt to save his ailing wife by building a house for her. Green narrates the film accompanied by live music featuring Brendan Canty of Fugazi and Howe Gelb of Giant Sand. Other special programs include a discussion on "The Evolution of Graffiti," a course exploring "What's Up with Contemporary Art?", and films highlighting the artistry of Ellsworth Kelly, Alex Katz, and Ei Anatsui. On September 29, the MFA debuts a new weekly series of evening learning and social gatherings, "Contemporary Thursdays," featuring gallery discussions, artist talks, gallery games, and artist demonstrations. These contemporary presentations are in addition to the Museum's full roster of programs that complement MFA exhibitions and that examine a variety of art-related topics. For more information, please see accompanying materials or visit the Museum website at mfa.org.

CONTEMPORARY THURSDAYS

The MFA's new series, "Contemporary Thursdays," is presented weekly from September 29–November 17 from 6–9 p.m., then monthly on the second Thursday of each month beginning in January 2012. It features 15-minute Contemporary Conversations, gallery discussions focusing on a single work of art paired with an additional special program each evening. "Contemporary Thursdays" are free with Museum admission.

September 29

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Beth Balliro, assistant professor of art education, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Artist Gallery Talk with Taylor Davis, 7-8 p.m.

October 6

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Brooke DiGiovanni Evans, head of Gallery Learning at the MFA, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Printmaking artist demonstration and hands-on activity with Boston artist Carolyn Muskat, 6:30–9 p.m.

October 13

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Maggie Cavallo, assistant curator of education, Montserrat College, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Artist gallery talk with Raul Gonzalez, 7–8 p.m.

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October 20

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Beth Balliro, assistant professor of art education, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Printmaking artist demonstration and hands-on activity with Boston artist Carolyn Muskat, 6:30–9 p.m.

October 27

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussion led by Brooke DiGiovanni Evans, head of Gallery Learning at the MFA, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- *Gallery Games: Reacting to Contemporary Art* led by Barbara Martin, Alfond Curator of Education at the MFA, 7–8 p.m.

November 3

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Barbara Martin, Alfond Curator of Education at the MFA, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Collage artist demonstration and hands-on activity with Boston artist Robin Dash, 6:30–9 p.m.

November 10

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by educator Maggie Cavallo, assistant curator of education, Montserrat College, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- *Looking at Contemporary Art* workshop led by Brooke DiGiovanni Evans, head of Gallery Learning at the MFA, 7–8 p.m.

November 17

- Contemporary Conversations—15-minute gallery discussions led by Maggie Cavallo, assistant curator of education, Montserrat College, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- *Gallery Games: Reacting to Contemporary Art* led by Barbara Martin, Alfond Curator of Education at the MFA, 7–8 p.m.

LECTURES / COURSES / LOOKING TOGETHER

The MFA is presenting an expanded roster of interesting lectures, courses, and Looking Together courses this fall, including those that encourage a deeper appreciation of contemporary art (listed below). For more detailed information, please consult the accompanying materials, or go to www.mfa.org/programs/lectures-and-courses.

The Evolution of Graffiti

Sunday, September 25, 2011, 2–3 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Panel: Caleb Neelon, artist and author; artist Risk; Roger Gastman, author and associate curator of "Art on the Streets," Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art; and Jen Mergel, Robert L. Beal, Enid L. Beal and Bruce A. Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the MFA

Mixed Taste: Tag-Team Lectures on Unrelated Topics

The Robots' Opera and Clam Chowder

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 7 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Participants: Adam Lerner, director and chief animator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Tod Machover, composer, professor of Music and Media, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Richard Vellante, executive vice president of restaurants and executive chef, Legal Sea Foods

Rediscovering Lee Krasner: Beyond Jackson Pollock

Wednesday, November 9, 7 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Participants: Gail Levin, art historian, curator, and author of Lee Krasner: A Biography; and Gregory Williams, assistant professor of art history, Boston University

What's Up with Contemporary Art?

Day-long course—Sunday, October 23, 2011, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Presenters: Eleanor Heartney, contributing editor, Art in America, Artpress, and author of Art and Today; Joan Jonas, artist and professor, Visual Arts Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Janaina Tschäpe, artist. They will be joined by MFA curators: Edward Saywell, chair, Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art and head of Contemporary Art and MFA Programs; Jen Mergel, Robert L. Beal, Enid L. Beal and Bruce A. Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art; and Al Miner, assistant curator, Contemporary Art.

Cuba: Time, Art, and Movement

Course on three Tuesdays, October 4–18, 10:30 a.m.–noon, Remis Auditorium

OR

Course on three Thursdays, October 6–20, 7–8:30 p.m., Alford Auditorium

Presenters: Alan West-Durán, associate professor, Northeastern University; and Michelle A. Wojcik, gallery director, Galería Cubana

Contemporary Questions

Course on four Tuesdays, October 25, November 1, 8, and 15, 10:30 a.m.–noon, Remis Auditorium

OR

Four Thursdays, October 27, November 3, 10, and 17, 7–8:30 p.m., Alford Auditorium

MFA Curators: Edward Saywell, chair, Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art and head, Contemporary Art & MFA Programs; Jen Mergel, Robert L. Beal, Enid L. Beal and Bruce A. Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art; Al Miner, assistant curator, Contemporary Art; Emily Zilber, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts; and Liz Munsell, curatorial research associate, Contemporary Art

All Art Has Been Contemporary

Looking Together course on six Wednesdays, October 5–November 16, 2011 (except November 9), 10:30 a.m.–noon OR

Four Fridays, October 14–November 4, 2011, 6–7:30 p.m., in galleries

Led by Liz Munsell, curatorial research associate, Contemporary Art, MFA

Women and Art: Aphrodite to Rachel Whiteread

Looking Together course on six Tuesdays, October 11–November 15, 1:30–3 p.m., in galleries

Led by Nancy Ketterer, adjunct instructor

GALLERY LEARNING PROGRAMS

Gallery Learning Programs encompass Gallery Talks, Artist Demonstrations, and Family Programs and Materials. Included in the informative Gallery Talks—led by curators and educators in the galleries—is the new series "Past and Present at the MFA," which focuses on the connections between the contemporary galleries and other objects in the permanent collection, highlighting the encyclopedic holdings of the MFA. Artist Demonstrations are special presentations that explore how a work of art is made, and Family Programs and Materials offer hands-on opportunities for young people to engage with art.

Gallery Talks

Free with Museum admission; participants meet in the Sharf Visitor Center

- Thursday, October 20, 1–2 p.m., *Past and Present at the MFA: From Vistas to Verisimilitude Scenic Wallpaper Then and Now*, led by Al Miner, assistant curator, Contemporary Art, MFA, and Dennis Carr, assistant curator, Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of the Americas, MFA
- Wednesday, November 2, 6–7 p.m., *Past and Present at the MFA: Depicting Difference in the Decorative Arts*, led by Emily Zilber, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, MFA, and Thomas Michie,

Russell B. and Andrée Beauchamp Stearns Senior Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of Europe, MFA. Made possible by The Lowell Institute

- Saturday, November 5, noon–1 p.m., *Exploring Contemporary Art from an Artist's Perspective*, led by local artist John Bisbee
- Thursday, November 10, 1–2 p.m., *Contemporary Art: The Unended Story*, led by Jen Mergel, Robert L. Beal, Enid L. Beal and Bruce A. Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art
- Saturday, November 12, noon–1 p.m., *Contemporary Art and Authenticity*, led by graduate student lecturer Martina Tanga
- Sunday, November 20, 2–3 p.m., *Contemporary Art and Authenticity*, led by graduate student lecturer Martina Tanga
- Thursday, December 8, 1–2 p.m., *Past and Present All that Glitters: Olga de Amaral's Artistic Influences*, led by Emily Zilber, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, MFA; Dennis Carr, assistant curator, Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of the Americas, MFA; and Lauren Whitley, curator, Textiles and Fashion Arts, MFA
- Sunday, December 11, 2–3 p.m., *Art in Between* led by graduate student lecturer Martina Tanga
- Thursday, December 15, 1–2 p.m., *Crafting Contemporary: The Daphne and Peter Farago Gallery*, led by Emily Zilber, Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, MFA
- Saturday, December 17, noon–1 p.m., *Art in Between*, led by graduate student lecturer Martina Tanga

Artist Demonstration

Collage: Contemporary Interventions

Sunday, November 6, 2011, noon–3 p.m., Druker Family Pavilion
Free, made possible by The Lowell Institute

Boston artist Robin Dash will show how she extracts language in found text to create personal connections. Participants will learn about her approaches to the artwork and observe the results, then will be invited to join in and incorporate words into their own meaningful objects.

Multimedia Guide and Family Programs/ Materials

To complement the opening of the Linde Family Wing, the MFA's multimedia guide just for young people has been expanded with nine new stops about contemporary works by Chuck Close, Gord Peteran, Doug and Mike Starn, Michael Eden, Ellsworth Kelly, Lynda Benglis, John Cederquist, Brent Kee Young, and Nick Cave. The guide is available for \$5 for MFA members, \$6 for non-members, and \$4 for youth, and has some 100 stops featuring works throughout the Museum. Additionally, the Museum hosts family programming and activities during Open Houses, Community Days, and school vacation weeks to engage young people with art on view at the MFA. Activities that specifically feature the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art include:

Big and Small Art Connections Card— This colorful, double-sided card at the Sharf Visitor Center invites visitors to search the Museum for large and tiny works of art in the contemporary wing and the Art of the Americas Wing. Made possible by The Lowell Institute.

Outside the Box Contemporary Activity—Available at the Family Art Cart *, this hands-on activity lets visitors create their own work of art from everyday objects. Made possible by The Lowell Institute.

Contemporary Sketchbook— Visitors can start their own artist's sketchbook as they discover the new contemporary galleries and learn about artists who drip paint and others who use everyday objects to create works of art.

December School Vacation Week (December 26–31)— Families can spend the day at the Museum, exploring the galleries, creating artwork to take home and participating in a variety of programs. Made possible by The Lowell Institute

*Family Art Cart is made possible with endowment support from the Germeshausen Foundation Fund for Youth and Family Learning, and the John and Dorothy Wilson Fund. Additional support for self-guiding materials provided by The Lowell Institute.

CONCERTS

Special programs offered in the Linde Family Wing explore all aspects of contemporary culture, including music. For additional information about these concerts, please consult the accompanying program or go to www.mfa.org/programs/music.

Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

September 30, 2011, 8 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then...

October 14, 2011, 8 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Kristin Hersh Presents Paradoxical Undressing

October 18, 2011, 8 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Cordis

November 13, 2011, 3 p.m., Remis Auditorium

NEC Millennium Gospel Choir

December 16, 2011, 8 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Sound Bites— This new monthly series features classical, folk, and world music presented by small group ensembles on the second Thursday of the month (October 13, November 10, December 8) from 7–9 p.m., Shapiro Family Courtyard

FILMS

The Museum's Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Film Program, with more than 500 screenings annually, is one of the most respected programs of its kind in the United States and highlights independent and international film. The following films highlight three contemporary artists whose works are represented in the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art. For more information, please consult the accompanying film brochure or visit www.mfa.org/programs/film.

Ellsworth Kelly: Fragments by Edgar B. Howard and Tom Piper (2009, 65 minutes)

Preceded by ***Alex Katz: Five Hours*** by Vivien Bittencourt and Vincent Katz (1996, 20 minutes)

September 21 at 4 p.m., September 23 at 4 p.m., and September 24 at 12:40 p.m., Remis Auditorium

Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of Ei Anatsui by Susan Vogel (2011, 53 minutes)

September 21 at 6 p.m., September 22 at 3:30 p.m., and September 23 at 6 p.m., Remis Auditorium