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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sister Exhibitions “Fifth Year Exhibition 2011” and “SMFA Traveling Scholars”  
on view at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 30–April 30**

*Shown together for the first time, these exhibitions illustrate the evolution of our artists—  
from students to post-graduate work and beyond*

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**Boston, MA (March 30, 2011)**— Culminating two distinct programs at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), “Fifth Year Exhibition 2011” and “SMFA Traveling Scholars,” are important stepping stones in the careers of the seven participating artists. The installations, videos, performance, paintings, drawings and sculpture created over the past year or more reflect each individual’s commitment to cultural, artistic and intellectual diversity within their practice. On view March 30–April 30, 2011, SMFA is pleased to show these exhibitions side-by-side for the first time and invite viewers to engage in each artist’s journey as they transition to the next phase of their career.

Support for exploration and research are critical in the early stages of an artist’s career. The School has a strong history of providing those opportunities, none more important or enduring than the SMFA Traveling Scholars program. Since 1899, this program has awarded funds to select artists for post-graduate work and travel. Over the years these awards have recognized the most innovative, ambitious work, including notable alumni Nan Goldin, Mike and Doug Starn, Ellen Gallagher, Omer Fast, Cliff Evans and Rachel Perry Welty.

The 2011 “SMFA Traveling Scholars” presents work by the 2009 award recipients who have spent nearly two years traveling, exploring, working and creating an inspired body of new work for this exhibition:

**Nathan Boyer** received his Master of Fine Art from Yale University in 2002, Fifth Year Certificate from SMFA in 2000, Studio Diploma from SMFA in 1999 and BFA from SMFA/Tufts University in 1998. Boyer is on the faculty of the University of Missouri (Columbia, SC) and was recently awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in Austria and was an artist-in-residence at the quartier21/Museums Quartier program for digital media in Vienna.

Boyer’s performance videos (*Dr. Skullface* and *Mystery Talk* will be on view) explore the creation of personae based on cultural models. Merging “high” and “low” sources, from hip-hop to postmodern critical theory, he offers insight into why people embrace or reject certain cultural markers when creating their identity.

**David D’Agostino** received a Studio Diploma and Fifth Year Certificate from SMFA in 2003 and 2009, respectively. He has work in the permanent collection of the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University, and nearly 10 years of work experience counseling mentally ill and disabled people through art and video.

As a documentary filmmaker, D’Agostino explores the extremes of human nature. On view in the exhibition is *Arthur Knight Hammer: King of the Bears*, which profiles Knight, a gay man on a mission to create his own interpretation of Christianity after being rejected by the Christian Fundamentalist community.

**Ariel Kotker** received her Studio Diploma from SMFA in 2003. She was awarded a Massachusetts Cultural Council fellowship in 2007 and has exhibited around New England in spaces such as Northampton Center for the Arts, the Berwick Research Institute in Boston and Tufts University.

Kotker’s installation, *His Room as He Left It*, is a “walk-in novella” which tells the coming-of-age story of Drey Fank. Hand-making each and every piece of Fank’s room, from cigarettes and clothes to his diary and bed, she creates not just art, but a true reflection of a life lived.

**Kate Sinnott** received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005 and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Studio Diploma and Fifth Year Certificate from SMFA in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Situated in a place in between architecture and sketching, Sinnott creates complex environments in which drawing becomes three dimensional.

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The Fifth Year Certificate program is a year of intense, independent work. A combination of a teaching assistantship and working in a studio off-campus, with support from faculty mentors, the program aims to ready and launch its students as professional artists. Offered exclusively to graduates of SMFA's Studio Diploma program, Fifth Year experience culminates in a group exhibition by participants who also complete for Traveling Scholarships.

The 2011 "Fifth Year Exhibition" features:

**Lynda Michaud Cutrell** received an MBA and BS/BA from Suffolk University in 1981 and 1980, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate and Studio Diploma from SMFA in 2007 and 2008. She has exhibited around New England including the Somerville Museum, the Marblehead Festival of Arts and GASP Gallery.

Cutrell's series of oil paintings reflect her emotional journey following the detection of emerging psychosis in a family member. Working at the intersection of art and science, Cutrell seeks to de-stigmatize mental illness by transforming data imagery into striking, accessible images.

**Senem Kavak** received a Bachelor of Arts from Bagazici University (Istanbul, Turkey) in 1998 and a Studio Diploma from SMFA in 2009.

Kavak's mixed media installation is created "in the silent midpoint where the death of the previous self is completed and the new is yet unseen." Her raw clay forms invite touching and holding; vessels representative of undefined promises, yet to unveil themselves.

**David Pappas** received his Studio Diploma from SMFA in 2009.

Fascinated by outer space, technology and the bear, Pappas invents a narrative in which the iconic bears stand in for human aspirations and longings.

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Exhibitions and all related events are free and open to the public.  
Visit [www.smfa.edu/exhibitions](http://www.smfa.edu/exhibitions) for more information.

**"Fifth Year Exhibition 2011"**

*Wednesday, March 30–Saturday, April 30, 2011*

Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery, SMFA  
230 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115

Opening reception: March 30, 5–7 pm

Artists' Talk (Lynda Michaud Cutrell, Senem Kavak, David Pappas): April 13, 12:30–1:30 pm

*Emerging Psychosis in Young Adults*: April 13, 1:30–2:30 pm

Lynda Michaud Cutrell in conversation with Dr. Donald Goff, MD, director of the Schizophrenia Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School

**"SMFA Traveling Scholars"**

*Wednesday, March 30–Saturday, April 30, 2011*

Mrs. E. Ross Anderson Auditorium, SMFA  
230 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115

Opening reception: March 30, 5–7 pm

Artists' Talk (Nathan Boyer, David D'Agostino, Ariel Kotker, Kate Sinnott): March 31, 12:30–2 pm

Exhibition hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Thursday, 10 am–8 pm; Closed Sundays and holidays.

***About the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:***

*Founded in 1876 and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is one of only three art schools in the country affiliated with a major museum—the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Our mission is to provide an education in the fine arts—for undergraduate and graduate artists—that is interdisciplinary and self-directed. This education values cultural, artistic and intellectual diversity; it embraces a wide range of media; it stresses the development of individual vision and its relation to culture in general; it values equally the knowledge gained by thinking and doing; it is deeply engaged with the world as a whole. If the mission is constant, its practice is always transforming. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit [www.smfa.edu](http://www.smfa.edu).*

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