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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Commencement, May 18, 2014

With address by Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Malcolm Rogers,
Ann and Graham Gund Director
of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Boston, MA (May 5, 2014)—**Malcolm Rogers**, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), will deliver the commencement address to 209 graduates of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), on Sunday, May 18 at 6 pm in the MFA’s Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard.

Now approaching his 20th year at the Museum, Rogers will become the longest serving director in MFA history on May 7, 2014. During his tenure, Rogers has created a legacy of “opening doors” to the Boston community and global audiences. He has transformed this world-class destination by expanding the Museum’s encyclopedic collection, presenting innovative exhibitions, enhancing arts education programs, enlarging the MFA’s campus, and renovating and expanding the Museum’s historic building. Rogers’ initiatives are driven by the MFA’s mission: to serve a variety of people through direct encounters with works of art.

Approximately 1 million visitors a year are exposed to infinite possibilities for education and inspiration at the Museum. Under Rogers’ leadership, the Museum underwent a transformative building renovation and expansion, including the Art of the Americas Wing and Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard, which opened in 2010. Rogers also directed the renovation of the I.M. Pei-designed Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art, which opened in 2011. Rogers has expanded the Museum’s encyclopedic collection with nearly 68,000 acquisitions, and more than 375 exhibitions have been presented during his tenure, ranging from old masters (*Rembrandt’s Journey: Painter–Draftsman–Etcher*, 2003 and *El Greco to Velázquez: Art during the Reign of Philip III*, 2008) and masters of photography (*Ansel Adams*, 2005 and *Ori Gersht: History Repeating*, 2012), to Egyptian treasures (*Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*, 1999) and Chinese painting (*Tales from the Land of Dragons: 1000 Years of Chinese Painting*, 1997). Other global initiatives have included the expansion of the MFA’s traveling exhibition program, and a partnership with a sister museum in Japan, the Nagoya/Boston Museum of Fine Arts, which opened in 1999.

Rogers is a Great Benefactor at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, a Trustee of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and a member of the Board of Overseers of the Boston Lyric Opera. Prior to his arrival at the MFA, Rogers served as Deputy Director and Deputy Keeper at the National Portrait Gallery, London. Rogers is an authority on 16th-, 17th-, and early 18th-century portraits, and has written extensively on Van Dyck’s English period, on photography, and on London and its museums.

This year’s SMFA graduates, 209 in total, will receive degrees or certificates from a range of programs: Bachelor of Fine Arts; BFA + Bachelor of Arts or Science (Dual Degree); Master of Fine Arts, and

Master of Arts in Teaching in Art Education in partnership with Tufts and Northeastern universities; and SMFA's Studio Diploma and Post-Baccalaureate certificate programs. Additional ceremony speakers include retiring faculty member David Davison and BFA student Nathaniel Grossman.

SMFA will host a number of exhibitions showcasing graduating student work: on view May 13–18, **“The Cyclorama Show: Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, SMFA, Boston”** celebrates the work of graduating MFA students with the first, large-scale collective exhibition in the history of the program at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts, which provides a unique backdrop for the students' high-concept, visually powerful contemporary art; on view now through May 18 **“Graduating Students + Award Recipients,”** features 66 graduating students from across SMFA programs, alongside 2013–14 award recipients including the Yousuf Karsh Prize in Photography, the Dana Pond Award in Painting, the Rose Hill Performance Art Award, and the Springborn Fellowship recipients; and on view May 16–18, **“fourteen: Senior Thesis”** showcases the creative accomplishments of 39 fourth-year undergraduate students, developed over the past two semesters. The Senior Thesis program encourages students to cultivate their identity as artists through conceptualizing, executing, and presenting a cohesive body of work, under the guidance of dedicated faculty mentors.

SMFA welcomes visitors to explore the creative and boundary-pushing array of art produced by graduating students at our Commencement Weekend kick-off party, Friday, May 16, 5–8 pm.

Admission is free for the kick-off celebration and for all exhibitions.

Visit www.smfa.edu/exhibitions for more information.

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 two 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.

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