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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Announces 2015 SMFA Traveling Fellows

(September 22, 2014) **BOSTON, MA**—Throughout our long and distinguished history, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of bequests designed to support student work. None has been as important or as enduring as the Traveling Fellowships, which were created in 1894 to encourage post-graduate work and travel. While the selection criteria have changed through the years, the awards have consistently provided support to launch individual careers through independent work, travel, and exhibition opportunities.

Earlier this fall, a jury comprised of Jeffrey Bishop, artist and SMFA alumnus; Russell LaMontagne, owner of Lamontagne Gallery (Boston); and Jill Shaw, Senior Curator of Collections, Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University awarded 10 fellowships from a pool of 164 alumni applicants.

Allison Beondé (BFA 2012)

Beondé has always been inspired by the American West, seeing it as an open playground of landmarks, climates, and monumental openness. She will be traveling to the American Southwest to continue her recent exploration of and experimentation with the vastness of light, place, and the poetry of place. Using photograms as an abstract means of representation, she aims to create quiet and contemplative images using experimental means of production.

David Bodhi Boylan (Studio Diploma 2005)

Boylan's work occupies a place between architecture and sculpture. He plans to visit various architectural sites in Italy designed by Carlo Scarpa (1906–78), including Brion Cemetery in San Vito di Altivole. Scarpa was a visionary architect whose life's work consists of dramatic modernist interventions into traditional Venetian architecture and natural settings. Boylan hopes that exploring Scarpa's work first-hand will allow him to reconsider and reposition his art practice in relation with craft, site-specificity, and history.

Linda Leslie Brown (Diploma 1978, Fifth Year 1979)

Brown's work explores a morphogenetic vocabulary of layered masses, planes, and openings, reminiscent of a coral reef. She incorporates metal, wood, paper clay, plaster, pigments, glass, runner, and stone, creating allusions to the human body, while at the same time suggesting a new, transgenic nature. She will participate in an extended residency in the Bahamas and has been invited to work at John Cox's POPOPstudios. Brown hopes the vibrant, colorful, and sometimes ambiguously layered Bahamian culture will have a powerful impact on her future work.

Robert Chamberlin (MFA 2013)

In his exploration of embellishment, wealth, and emptiness, Chamberlin has taken inspiration from the jewels, palaces, and lives of Europe's most notorious elite families. The forms used in his work reference Sèvres porcelain. Elaborately decorated, these pieces are at once beautiful, but can also be physically dangerous, which for Chamberlain raises questions about the price of wealth and opulence. He will travel and gather inspiration from to the Palace of Versailles and Sèvres Museum (Paris, France), the Peterhof Palace and Hermitage (St. Petersburg, Russia), collections of former crown jewels and Faberge eggs in Moscow, Russia, as well as the White House and other monuments to American history (Washington, DC).

Brittany Gravely and Ken Linehan (MFA 2001)

Gravely and Linehan will travel to Glastonbury, England which has for centuries drawn individuals to its Neolithic sites, ancient religious structures, supernatural phenomena, and, more recently, its bohemian music festival. The artists wish to commune with the rich and storied mythos of Glastonbury to inform their "expanded cinema events," which incorporate film projections, soundscapes, and found footage.

Shane Lavalette (BFA 2009)

Lavalette will travel to Rome, Italy to study the city's broken and aged monuments, architecture, and sculptures. Through photography, video, and appropriated imagery he plans to further his exploration of our desire to preserve our own artistic and cultural creations. Documenting the relics of Rome will allow him to experiment and utilize photographic media in new ways, including anotype process, which produces images using photosensitive material from plants, traditionally exposed by the sun.

Linda Pagani (Studio Diploma 2012)

Pagani reinterprets familiar environments in her photographs, using light and space as central subjects, exploring the way we experience the architecture around us and question what we see. Her recent body of work has focused on her personal, domestic space. To further develop her work, she will travel to Turkey and Italy—both places she has lived before—to revisit how the different architectures in these locations influence her experience of a space; how the past influences her interpretations today and how she interpreted them yesterday.

Daniela Rivera (MFA 2006)

Rivera's interest in the role landscapes play in the construction of culture, collective memory, and national identities has inspired her plans to travel the Atacama Desert in Chile, specifically to Chuquicamata, the largest open pit copper mine in the world. Using mixed media, painting, audio recordings, and video she will explore the radically transformed landscapes produced by the activities of the Chilean mining industry, ultimately linking the labor devoted to the reconstruction of the topography there to the labor devoted to the construction of her work.

Liz Shepherd (MFA 2006)

Shepherd's upbringing in a family of fierce atheists (she herself identifies as one) has spawned a curiosity to understand humankind's search for meaning through faith. This curiosity has been the driving force behind her life-long study of world religions, ancient art history, and early Christian art. She plans to travel to Turkey and Jerusalem to further explore what connects various religious doctrines.

Hannah Verlin (BFA 2005)

Verlin reignited a fascination with human skeletal remains found in ossuaries after reexamining an older piece of work found in her studio. Ossuaries, spaces where skeletons of multiple people are stored, sometimes even used as decorations, can offer intimate connections with the dead and be places both of veneration and terror. She will visit ancient ossuaries—with their textures, sounds, and smells—across Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic to enhance her work with a sense of time, scale, and death.

The 2015 Fellows have approximately one year to complete their travels. At the conclusion of those travels, their works will be reviewed again and one artist from this distinguished group will be selected for a solo presentation at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, to be held in 2017.

Visit www.smfa.edu/fellows for more information about current fellows and upcoming exhibitions.

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, the practice is always transforming. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit www.smfa.edu.

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