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**School of the Museum  
of Fine Arts Boston**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Commencement, May 22, 2016  
*With address by alumnus and artist Gonzalo Fuenmayor*

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**Boston, MA (May 2, 2016)**— **Gonzalo Fuenmayor**, artist and alumnus, will deliver the commencement address to the graduates of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), on Sunday, May 22, 2016 in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard.

Gonzalo Fuenmayor's recent work examines ideas of dislocation and exoticism through a series of large-scale charcoal and pastel drawings. He explores cross-cultural and hybrid identities through obvious and clichéd aspects of tropical culture presented together with Rococo and Victorian style elements. As the past, the present, the exotic, and the familiar collide, absurd and fantastic panoramas arise.

Born in Barranquilla, Colombia in 1977, Fuenmayor received a Master of Fine Arts from SMFA in 2004 and a BFA in Fine Arts and Art Education from School of Visual Arts in 2000, where he was awarded a full tuition scholarship from the Keith Haring Foundation. He has been awarded numerous awards including a 2015 South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship for Visual and Media Artists, a 2014 Traveling Fellowship from SMFA, first prize at the 6th Bidimensional Salon at Gilberto Alzate Avendaño Foundation in Bogotá, Colombia, 2013, and a Silas Rhodes Family Award in 2000. Fuenmayor has had numerous solo and group shows in United States, Latin America and Europe including a solo exhibition "Tropical Mythologies" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2015; "Caribbean Crossroads" at the Queens Museum, NY; and "Florida Contemporary 2011" at the Naples Museum. He has upcoming solo exhibitions at Dolby Chadwick Gallery in San Francisco, CA and at Gallery El Museo in Bogota, Colombia. He lives and works in Miami, FL and is represented by Dot Fiftyone Gallery, Miami and Dolby Chadwick Gallery.

This year's 195 graduates 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 will include former faculty member Fritz Buehner and student speakers Gabriel Sosa (MFA) and Alexandra Wollins (BFA).

SMFA will host a number of exhibitions showcasing graduating student work: on view May 17–20, "**The Cyclorama Show: Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, SMFA, Boston**" celebrates the work of 58 graduating MFA students at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts; though May 21 MFA candidate Robert Solomon's thesis work will be on view in SMFA's Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery and "**Graduating Students + Award Recipients**," features graduating students from across SMFA programs, alongside 2015–16 award recipients including the Yousuf Karsh Prize in Photography, the Rose Hill Performance Art Award, and the Springborn Fellowship recipients; and on view May 21–25, "**Stay In Touch: Senior Thesis Exhibition**" showcases the creative accomplishments of fourth-year undergraduate students, developed over the past two semesters.

Visitors are invited to explore the innovative art by SMFA's students at a kick-off party, Saturday May 21, 5–8 pm, including food, music, and cash bar. Admission is free.

Visit [www.smfa.edu/exhibitions](http://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](http://www.smfa.edu).*