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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Hosts
27th Annual December Sale to Benefit Student Scholarships**

Largest Public Art Sale in New England Sold \$1.4 Million of Contemporary Art in 2006

Boston (October 16, 2007)—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (SMFA), is an institution dedicated to educating artists by fostering creative investigation, risk-taking, and individual vision. For over a quarter of a century, the SMFA community has offered the public unparalleled access to view and purchase original artwork from SMFA-affiliated artists at its popular annual event, **December Sale**. Whether acquiring pieces for a personal collection or searching for a unique holiday gift, art enthusiasts from far and wide have the opportunity to explore nearly 5,000 one-of-a-kind works in all price ranges and a variety of media at this year’s sale, December 5–9.

As the largest public art sale in New England, **December Sale** showcases artwork by over 800 emerging and established artists—from renowned SMFA alumni Ellsworth Kelly, Jim Dine, and Mike and Doug Starn to SMFA students. The sale is free and open to the public, with pieces for sale rotating daily to create an ever-changing visual delight worth visiting more than once. Last year, more than \$1.4 million worth of paintings, photographs, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, textiles, and more were sold.

“For more than twenty-five years, the December Sale has brought together a varied and impressive collection of artwork,” said Deborah H. Dluhy, Dean of the School and Deputy Director, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. “We are grateful for the continued contributions of our alumni, faculty, students, and artist-friends, which, together with the invaluable support of the community attending this event, has made the annual December Sale a magnificent win-win event—mutually benefiting artists and our scholarship funds.”

Every purchase at the **December Sale** has a direct impact on the future of the visual arts. Proceeds benefit both artists and SMFA student scholarships. In 2006, the sale raised more than \$1.4 million toward this effort. Funding is vitally important to the education of young artists, as

the Museum School annually commits over \$4.3 million to meet the growing need for student financial aid. This year, 68 percent of all SMFA students are receiving some sort of financial aid.

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is pleased to offer free parking in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's outdoor lot and garage, located on Museum Road, with the purchase of any item at **December Sale**. The complimentary parking pass is valid only on the day of purchase in these parking areas, and availability is not guaranteed. Buyers also receive complimentary admission to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), on the day of their purchase. Visitors will need to show their receipt at the ticket desk at the MFA to receive free admission.

December Sale Location and Hours:

Wednesday, December 5, 12–8 pm	School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Opening Celebration: 5–8 pm	230 The Fenway
Thursday, December 6, 12–8 pm	Boston, MA 02115
Friday, December 7– Sunday, December 9, 12–6 pm	Admission is free.

The sale is held on the first floor of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Visitors are encouraged to take public transportation as only limited garage and street parking are available. SMFA is accessible via the Green Line E train (exit at Museum of Fine Arts stop), the Orange Line (exit at Ruggles stop), or the #39 bus (exit at Ruggles Street).

For more information, visit www.smfa.edu or call 617-369-3204.

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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 the largest and oldest museum schools in the country. A division of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the School offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in partnership with Tufts and Northeastern universities. SMFA also offers an all-studio four-year Diploma and one-year Fifth Year and Post-Baccalaureate certificates. Through Continuing Education, evening and weekend courses and art-making programs for adults and teenagers also are available. For more information, please visit www.smfa.edu.