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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Presents  
“Fifth Year Exhibition 2008”**

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**Boston (February 25, 2008)**—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is pleased to present the **“Fifth Year Exhibition 2008,”** on view in the Grossman Gallery and Anderson Auditorium April 11–May 3. The show features five artists—Lizi Brown, Evan Crankshaw, Wendy Jean Hyde, Rob Pettit, and Lori Schouela—whose ambitious and highly energetic work address a broad range of topics in a variety of media.

The Fifth Year Certificate program is an intensive year of independent study open to graduates of the School’s Diploma program designed to foster a period of transformation from art student to independent artist. Balancing self-investigation and feedback, and School community support and pressure, students emerge at the end of the process with a new, personal, and consistent body of work.

Participants also compete for the prestigious Traveling Scholarship Awards—travel grants that annually total \$80,000 to \$100,000. Among the largest endowed art school grant programs in the country, the awards provide winners with traveling funds to further develop and inform their work, in addition to the opportunity to show their work at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

**PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**

**Lizi Brown**

Brown (b. Putnam, CT, 1954) received a Diploma from the SMFA in 2005.

Brown's paintings are about relationships and the visual flow that goes with talk. Inspired by architecture and objects in a shared space, her work explores the ordinary activities, conversations, and affections of family and chosen family.

**Evan Crankshaw**

Crankshaw (b. Champaign, IL, 1985) received a Diploma from the SMFA in 2007.

Crankshaw's work morphs from barely-formed concepts mined from the unconscious into concrete explorations of the biology of sex, death, abstraction, and evolution. Balancing other-worldness and aesthetic accessibility, he invites the viewer to approach his drawings with their subconscious associations and opinions.

**Wendy Jean Hyde**

Hyde (b. Boston, MA, 1964) received a Diploma from the SMFA in 1989.

Is it possible to capture the past and future—the coming and going—simultaneously? Inspired by Diane Arbus' musings on the state of the present, Hyde's videos explore her quest to design and build an apparatus to do just that and the complicated nature of the viability of such a device.

**Rob Pettit**

Pettit (b. Albany, NY, 1981) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the SMFA and Tufts University and a Diploma from the SMFA in 2007. He has exhibited at Gallery Diet, Miami, the Khaki Gallery, Wellesley, MA, and the Lark Street Book Shop, Albany, NY, among others.

Pettit's installations and drawings—made from discarded, mass-produced objects—are calculated responses to the manic influx of emotionless technology. Demonstrating the sheer volume of our discarded tastes for the next new thing, his work charts the evolution and death of technology in today's society.

**Lori Schouela**

Schouela (b. Montreal, Quebec, 1958) received a Diploma from the SMFA in 2006 and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in 1980. She has exhibited at the Boston Printmakers 2007 North American Print Biennial, Boston, Mandala@MIT, Cambridge, MA, and Arsenal Center for the Arts, Watertown, MA, among others.

Shouela's work draws inspiration from sensuous objects and explores our ever-changing states of mind in a search for inner balance. Peek through the small holes and cracks of her installation, adorned with items representing the mind's cravings, and experience a glimpse of inner freedom.

**RELATED EVENTS**Opening Reception

Thursday, April 10, 5–8 pm

Artists' Talk

Thursday, April 17, 12:30 pm

Grossman Gallery and Anderson Auditorium, SMFA

**LOCATION**

"Fifth Year Exhibition 2008"  
Grossman Gallery, SMFA  
230 The Fenway  
Boston, MA 02115

**HOURS**

Monday–Saturday: 10 am–5 pm  
Thursday: 10 am–8 pm  
Closed Sunday and holidays

For more information, call 617-369-3718 or visit [www.smfa.edu/exhibitions](http://www.smfa.edu/exhibitions). Admission is free.

***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](http://www.smfa.edu).*

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