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**SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON AND KICKSTARTER
LAUNCH NEW PARTNERSHIP**
SMFA Community Unleashes New Curated Pages

(April 2, 2012) Boston, MA—In an effort to increase awareness of the groundbreaking creative efforts of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA) community, the School has teamed with crowd sourcing leader Kickstarter to launch curated pages to fund the artistic and entrepreneurial projects of SMFA students, faculty and alumni.

Since its founding in 1876, SMFA has been at the forefront of the American and global art world with famed alumni such as Ellsworth Kelly, Nan Goldin, Cy Twombly, Jim Dine and David Lynch. It is affiliated with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and a member of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design, a consortium of 41 leading art schools in the United States and Canada.

More than 1.45 million people have pledged over \$150 million dollars to projects on Kickstarter since its launch in spring 2009. Kickstarter has revolutionized how creative projects are funded—and in the process has allowed people the freedom to create however and whatever they want. Project creators always keep full ownership and control of their work and in the process gain direct access to an audience deeply connected to their efforts. The Kickstarter community is over a million strong, with projects by Oscar winners, Grammy winners, TED Fellows, *New York Times* best-selling authors, Pulitzer Prize finalists, record labels, publishers and countless others.

Kickstarter launched its curated pages effort a year ago as a way for organizations and institutions to share projects they love. Current curated pages include those by such venerable cultural institutions as Sundance, TED, Creative Capital and the New Museum. This new SMFA collaboration arises from its recently launched Creative Futures program, which provides SMFA students with the business and entrepreneurial tools to bring their creative endeavors to fruition and thrive as artists. The program is comprised of lectures from leading entrepreneurs, classes on business and marketing skills, as well as competitions and a plethora of funding opportunities and platforms for students to develop their careers.

[SMFA's Kickstarter curated page](#) launches today and will feature the projects of graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and alumni. Current projects include:

- **F. Marek Modzelewski**, “Growing A Museum:” An effort to make a contemporary art museum utilizing the energy efficient and environmentally friendly strawbale building technique. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/fmarek/growing-a-museum>
- **Stephen St. Francis Decky**, “The Constellation Song”: A magical animated film based on characters developed in the artist’s paintings. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1818707871/the-constellation-song>
- **Alaina Gurdak**, “Where All The Problems Start”: A collaborative book project between Boston middle school students and talented emerging artists. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1895607315/where-all-the-problems-start>
- **Carl Vestweber**, “A Is For Alphabet”: A quirky and lush A-Z alphabet book featuring Carl’s magical world and illustrations. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/alphabetbookbycarl>

- **Katie Tyler**, “Eggs for Donuts”: An amazing Super 8 documentary focusing on New Town, North Dakota, where three small towns were flooded in 1953.
<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1714060987/eggs-for-donuts>

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 three 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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