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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Honors Alex Katz with
14th Annual Medal Award at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Presented to an artist who furthers the development and understanding of contemporary art.

Boston (April 18, 2009)—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is pleased to honor leading American artist **Alex Katz** with the 14th annual Medal Award, presented to an individual whose work furthers the development and understanding of contemporary art. Katz will be celebrated at a ceremony and gala dinner on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA).

The evening includes a special on-stage interview with Katz and Robin Young, host of WBUR's "Here and Now." During the cocktail reception, guests will have the opportunity to bid on work by Museum School students—and a print donated by Katz—in a silent auction. Proceeds from the event directly support student scholarship aid at the Museum School. This funding is vitally important to the education of our artists, as currently 72 percent of students receive some form of financial aid.

During his long career Katz has become best known for his paintings of everyday scenes and portraits in his signature "flat" style. An early exploration of *plein air* gave Katz "a reason to devote [his] life to painting." His wife and muse, Ada, was an early inspiration, and working from life remains a key element of his work today. During the 1960s and 70s, Katz dabbled in printmaking, sculpture, and set and costume design before returning to his passion: painting. Rising to prominence in the 1980s with retrospectives at the Whitney Museum of American Art and Brooklyn Museum of Art, Katz's work continues to influence new generations of artists.

Established in 1996, the Medal Award has honored artists such as Julian Schnabel, Kiki Smith, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Jeff Koons, and Robert Rauschenberg, among others. The Medal Award is endowed through the generosity of Carol and Arnold Haynes.

To purchase single tickets, table sponsorships, or for more event information, call 617-369-3591 or visit www.smfa.edu/medalaward

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Ron Cowie Photography

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.

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