

For images and more information contact:

Brooke Witkowski
617-369-3605
bwitkowski@smfa.edu



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**SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, HONORS JULIAN SCHNABEL
WITH 13TH ANNUAL MEDAL AWARD**

Boston (March 1, 2008)—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is pleased to announce that renowned painter and film director Julian Schnabel is the recipient of the 13th annual Medal Award. The Medal Award is presented annually to an individual whose work furthers the development and understanding of contemporary art. This year's ceremony and gala fundraising dinner will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), on Monday, May 12, beginning at 6 pm. All proceeds from the event benefit student scholarship aid.

Once considered to be the enigmatic bad boy of the New York City art scene, Schnabel has become one of the most prolific artists of his generation. He rose to prominence in the 1980s producing enormous paintings filled with vibrant colors and bold strokes. His paintings, sculptures, and works on paper have been the subject of retrospective exhibitions in venues around the world including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; The Whitechapel Gallery, London; The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; The Tate Gallery, London; and The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

In the mid-90s, Schnabel shifted his focus to film, writing and directing *Basquiat* (1996) and directing *Before Night Falls* (2000). His most recent directorial project is *Le Scaphandre et le Papillon/The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Released in 2007, the film has garnered honors from critics and festivals internationally, including Golden Globe[®] awards for best director and best foreign language film, best director at the Cannes Film Festival in France, and Academy Award[®] nominations for achievement in directing and adapted screenplay.

Established in 1996, the Medal Award has honored artists such as Brice Marden, Kiki Smith, SMFA alumnus Jim Dine, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Jeff Koons, Robert Rauschenberg, and SMFA alumna Ellen Gallagher, among others. All proceeds from the Medal Award dinner directly support student scholarship aid at the Museum School. This funding is vitally important to the education of young artists, as currently 68 percent of Museum School students receive some form of financial aid.

To sponsor a table or purchase single tickets, a limited number of which are available, call 617-369-3591.

The purchase of a Medal Award table includes:

- Cocktail reception in the Lower Galleria of the MFA.
- Dinner in the MFA's Koch Gallery and Upper Rotunda.
- Entry to the Medal Award ceremony and talk by Julian Schnabel.
- Opportunity to bid on SMFA student artwork in a silent auction.

- Attendance to a special screening of Schnabel's new documentary, *Berlin*, a live concert performance of Lou Reed's 1973 concept album.

Special thanks to

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The Medal Award Dinner is also co-sponsored by



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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.

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