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School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Commencement to Take Place May 19, 2013
Commencement address will be given by international curator and critic, Hou Hanru

Boston, MA (May 19, 2013)—International art critic and curator **Hou Hanru** will deliver the commencement address to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's (SMFA), 225 graduates on Sunday, May 19 at 6 pm in the Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Hou (b. 1963, Guangzhou, China) lives in Paris and San Francisco. He received degrees from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and moved from China to France in 1990. He most recently held the position of Director of Exhibitions and Public Program and Chair of Exhibition and Museum Studies at the San Francisco Art Institute (2006–12). He is co-director of the first World Biennale Forum (Gwangju, 2012) and is currently curating the 5th Auckland Triennial (Auckland, New Zealand, May–August 2013). In addition curating, Hou is sought after as an advisor, international juror and member of curatorial committees to art museums around the world, international lecturer and contributing writer to publications such as *Flash Art International*, *Art in America* and *Art Asia Pacific*.

Hou's impressive list of curatorial projects include: "China/Avant-Garde" (1989), "Parisien(ne)s" (1997), "Cities On The Move" (1997–2000), Shanghai Biennale (2000), Gwangju Biennale (2002), Venice Biennale (French Pavilion, 1999; Z.O.U. -- Zone Of Urgency, 2003; Chinese Pavilion, 2007), Nuit Blanche (2004, Paris), the 2nd Guangzhou Triennial (2005), the 2nd Tirana Biennial (2005), the 10th Istanbul Biennial (2007), "Global Multitude" (Luxembourg 2007), "Trans(cient)City" (Luxembourg 2007), EV+A 2008 (Limerick) and "The Spectacle of the Everyday: The 10th Lyon Biennale" (Lyon, 2009).

The 225 SMFA graduates will receive degrees or certificates from a range of programs: Bachelor of Fine Arts; BFA + Bachelor of Arts or Science (Dual Degree); Master of Fine Arts and Master of Arts in Teaching in Art Education in partnership with Tufts and Northeastern universities; SMFA's Studio Diploma and Post-Baccalaureate certificate programs. Additional ceremony speakers include faculty Bill Flynn and BFA student Ryan Hawk.

Open to the public through May 17, SMFA will host a number of exhibitions showcasing student work: Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibition, "**RAY OF DARK**," which investigates contemporary culture norms and an array of predicaments with humor and surrealism; "**Graduating Students + Award Recipients**" exhibition, which features 78 graduating students from across SMFA programs, alongside 18 2012–13 award recipients; "**Senior Thesis Exhibition**" featuring artwork from 50 graduating students in the BFA program, who received independent studio time to develop their work under the critical guidance of faculty mentors and the "**Post-Baccalaureate Juried Exhibition**," featuring 18 artists and curated by faculty Jonathan Calm and David Davison. SMFA welcomes visitors explore the creative and boundary-pushing array of art produced by our students, all while enjoying live music and cocktails at a kick-off party, May 17, 5–8 pm.

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.