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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's 2013 SMFA Commencement Weekend, May 17–19

Weekend kicks-off May 17 with a party featuring three floors of art exhibitions, live music, cocktails and more

Boston, MA (May 17, 2013)—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's (SMFA) 2013 Commencement weekend celebrates its graduates, families and friends May 17–19, 2013. SMFA opens its doors to the public Friday, May 17, 5–8 pm for a kick-off celebration, welcoming visitors to freely explore the creative and boundary-pushing array of art produced by our students, all while enjoying live music and cocktails.

On the first floor in the Mrs. E. Ross Anderson Auditorium, discover Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibition, **"RAY OF DARK."** Laura Harrison, Eugene LaRoche, Maia Lynch, Karmimadeebora McMillan, Tim Mearini and Ivette Salom investigate contemporary culture norms and an array of predicaments with humor and surrealism. The Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery, BAG Gallery and Katherine Lane Weems Atrium hosts the **"Graduating Students + Award Recipients"** exhibition, which features 78 graduating students from across SMFA programs, alongside 18 2012–13 award recipients, including the Yousuf Karsh Prize in Photography, the Dana Pond Award in Painting, the Rose Hill Performance Art Award and the Springborn Fellowship recipients.

Throughout the second and third floors, wander through the **"Senior Thesis Exhibition,"** which hosts a variety of artwork from more than 50 graduating students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program. This select group of seniors was given independent studio time to develop their work under the critical guidance of faculty mentors. Stop by studio A202 for the **"Post-Baccalaureate Juried Exhibition,"** featuring the work of 18 graduating students from the Post-Baccalaureate program, curated by distinguished faculty Jonathan Calm and David Davison.

Enjoy the music of Parks, the fast-rising, indie-pop band fronted by lead singer and Boston songsmith Brian E. King. Described as "a crisp, and precise take on garage pop," (*Boston Globe*), Parks actually draws inspiration from the likes of The Shins and The Beach Boys. Bursting out of Boston's music scene, the band distinguishes itself with dynamic performances between fiery Strokes-esque twists and turns and rich three-part harmonies.

Admission is free for the kick-off celebration and for all exhibitions; the Friday night event includes cash bar and complimentary snacks.

SMFA will hold its 2013 Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 19 in the Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, celebrating 225 graduates from our six degree and certificate programs. SMFA's commencement speaker will be curator and critic, **Hou Hanru**; faculty Bill Flynn and BFA student Ryan Hawk will also make remarks.

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
230 The Fenway, Boston MA 02115
www.smfa.edu/exhibitions

Public hours: Monday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm; Thursday, 10 am–8 pm; closed weekends + holidays.

"Graduating Students + Award Recipients"
Through May 18, 2013

Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery, Katherine Lane Weems Atrium, BAG Gallery + Project Space, SMFA

"Post-Baccalaureate Juried Exhibition"
May 17–22, 2013

Room A202, SMFA

“Ray of Dark” MFA Thesis Exhibition
Through May 18, 2013
Mrs. E. Ross Anderson Auditorium, SMFA

“Senior Thesis Exhibition”
May 17–22, 2013
Second + third floor studios, SMFA

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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