FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Celebrates Contemporary Artist Sarah Sze at the 19th Annual Medal Award Gala, May 19

Annual gala raises funds to support resources and scholarships for SMFA students

Boston, MA (April 5, 2014)—Since the late 1990s, contemporary artist Sarah Sze has created a signature artistic style, building detailed installations from the minutiae of everyday life. Her architectural, site-specific sculptures seem to come alive and play with the viewers’ perception of their exhibition spaces—and the works themselves. The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is proud to honor Sze with the Medal Award at a gala event on May 19, 2014, in the Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. First presented in 1996, SMFA’s Medal Award annually recognizes noteworthy artists and influential art patrons for their commitment to and influence on the art world.

Sarah Sze’s sculptures explore the ever-growing accumulation of objects and information in today’s society, and question their value and meaning. She employs a constellation of techniques and everyday materials in her work—from found objects and photographs to handmade sculptures and living plants—to create landscapes that penetrate walls and transform spaces through radical shifts of scale or the colonization of overlooked areas. Like the scientific instruments of measurement they often reference, Sze attempts to quantify and organize the universe, ascribing a fragile, personal system of order. Within her practice, sculpture becomes both a device for organizing and dismantling information and a mechanism to locate and dislocate oneself in time and space.

“We are pleased to welcome and honor Boston-native Sarah Sze as the recipient of this year’s Medal Award,” says SMFA President Christopher Bratton. “The School's annual Medal Award not only recognizes important contemporary artists, such as Sarah, but the gala and silent auction help support SMFA scholarships and programs that have an extraordinary, lasting impact on the success of these young artists.”


Sze’s sculptures, installations, and works on paper have also been exhibited at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Serpentine Gallery in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, as part of the 1999 Carnegie International. Her works are part of private and public collections worldwide, including those of New York’s Guggenheim Museum, and Museum of Modern Art, The New Museum, and Whitney Museum of American Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; 21st Century Museum of Art in Kanazawa, Japan; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA; and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.
Born in Boston in 1969, Sze presently lives and works in New York. She received a BA from Yale University in Connecticut in 1991 and an MFA from New York’s School of Visual Arts in 1997. She was a 2005 Radcliffe Institute Fellow and a 2003 MacArthur Fellow.

Chaired by Carol Noble, the 19th annual gala event includes seated dinner, award presentation, and a silent auction of student work. The Medal Award, endowed through the generosity of the Haynes Family Foundation, has been awarded to Alex Katz, Kiki Smith, Ellsworth Kelly, Ellen Gallagher and Julian Schnabel, among others.

Visit www.smfa.edu/medal2014 for more information and to purchase tickets.

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 two 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.

# # #