

**Contact:** Brooke Daniels  
617-369-3605  
bdaniels@smfa.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Celebrates Contemporary Artist Sarah Sze  
at the 19<sup>th</sup> 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."

In 2013, Sze represented the United States at the 55th Venice Biennale with a solo pavilion presentation entitled *Triple Point*. Other important solo exhibitions include *The Fabric Workshop and Museum* in Philadelphia, PA (2013–14), *Asia Society* in New York (2011–12), *Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art* in Newcastle, UK (2009), *Malmö Konsthall* in Sweden (2006), *Whitney Museum of American Art* in New York (2003), *Museum of Fine Arts* in Boston (2002), *Walker Art Center* in Minneapolis (2002), *Museum of Contemporary Art* in Chicago (1999), *Foundation Cartier* in Paris (1999), and the *Institute of Contemporary Arts* in London (1998). She has conceived major public commissions at New York City's *High Line Park* (2011–12), the *Doris C. Freedman Plaza* in New York City, organized by the *Public Art Fund* (2006), and the *Massachusetts Institute of Technology* in Cambridge (2004).

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.smfa.edu).*

###