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***SMFA TRAVELING SCHOLARS CELEBRATES MUSEUM SCHOOL ARTISTS AT
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON***

Boston (January 17, 2006) — *SMFA Traveling Scholars*, opening February 18, 2006, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), presents current work by the 2004 recipients of the prestigious Traveling Scholarships awarded annually by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA). The seven prize-winning artists include four artists from the SMFA's rigorous Fifth Year Certificate program and three artists chosen from alumni submissions. This year's exhibition includes a variety of media—including painting, photography, video installation, and performance art—and features diverse themes and voices, which illustrate the wide range of contemporary inquiry and individual vision characteristic of the Museum School. *SMFA Traveling Scholars* is on view in the Foster Gallery through April 12, 2006.

Since 1899, the SMFA has given Traveling Scholarship Awards—travel grants that annually total \$80,000 to \$100,000—to select Museum School alumni and Fifth Year program students. Among the largest endowed art school grant programs in the country, the Traveling Scholarship program provides each artist with traveling funds to further develop and inform their work, in addition to the opportunity to show their work at the MFA. The Traveling Scholars program has provided critical, early career support for many distinguished graduates of the Museum School including contemporary artists Nan Goldin, Mike and Doug Starn, Ellen Gallagher, and Omer Fast.

“The SMFA deeply values the educational and artistic opportunities that travel affords emerging artists, allowing them to meet their contemporaries, view stimulating works of art, and encounter different cultures,” said Deborah Dluhy, Dean of the School and Deputy Director, MFA. “As evidenced by the works in *SMFA Traveling Scholars*, these encounters can inspire artists to create work enriched by their new experiences.”

Selection of the Traveling Scholarship Award recipients was made in 2004 by two independent juries—one jury reviewed work by alumni, while the other selected artists from those participating in the Fifth Year Certificate program.

“Jurors were guided exclusively by the quality of the work submitted,” explains Joanna Soltan, SMFA curator. “The resulting exhibition combines very diverse bodies of work with the curatorial perspective giving way to very individual and disparate voices.”

TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

The three alumni recipients, chosen from a pool of more than 200 candidates, are:

Hannah Barrett

Hannah Barrett (b. 1966, Philadelphia, Pa.) received a Master of Fine Arts from Boston University in 1998, a Diploma from the Museum School in 1992, and a Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College in 1989. She has exhibited at Clifford-Smith Gallery, Boston; the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Mass.; and Fine Arts Center Gallery, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, among others.

Barrett spent two weeks in Rome with her Traveling Scholarship Award funds. The most revelatory experience for her was seeing the works of Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, which she was able to experience for the first time. Her own paintings take on both grotesque and fantastic qualities as she combines two people in each figure—in this series, the works feature a reality-based fictional pair of scientists at work.

Helen_Kim

Helen_Kim (b. 1966, Los Angeles, Calif.) received a Master of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts in 1999 and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the SMFA in 1993. She has exhibited at the YMCA's Space Gallery in Los Angeles and the Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, among others.

Kim spent two consecutive summers in her native Korea armed with pieces of family history including names, dates, maps, and ailments dating back to the fifteenth century that she transcribed onto napkins, placemats, and takeout containers during lunches with her mother. Her failed search for her family history is documented in her pieces, which combine word and image.

Rachel Perry Welty

Rachel Perry Welty (b. 1962, Tokyo, Japan) received a Diploma in 1999 and Fifth Year Certificate in 2001 from the Museum School and a Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College in 1984. She currently shows with Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston; and has also exhibited at Clifford-Smith Gallery, Boston; Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Mass.; and Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, N.Y., among others. With her traveling funds, Perry Welty spent time in New Mexico and saw her work, a video projection, presented at the Santa Fe Art Institute in Santa Fe, N.M.

A two-time Traveling Scholarship Award recipient, Perry Welty's works are created from leftovers of her daily life. Her video and installation in *SMFA Traveling Scholars* feature wrong-number voice messages and metallic twist ties crafted into pieces that examine life's domestic details.

The four artists selected from the Fifth Year Certificate program include:

Cliff Evans

Cliff Evans (b. 1977, Darkwood, New South Wales, Australia) received a Diploma in 2002 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2004 from the Museum School. His films have been screened at the Coolidge Corner Theater, Boston; Tanglewood (Boston Symphony Orchestra), Lenox, Mass.; and the Brooklyn Underground Film Festival, Brooklyn, N.Y., among other venues.

While spending three months in New Orleans before the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Evans began work on a project featuring images of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and depicting scenarios of the department's possible abuse of power. *The Road to Mount Weather*, comprised of Internet and television clippings, is a beautiful and biting video collage.

Bryce Kauffman

Bryce Kauffman (b. 1979, Walkersville, Md.) received a Diploma in 2001 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2004 from the Museum School. Kauffman, a performance and installation artist, used his Traveling Scholarship Award funds to travel to and perform in the invitational twelfth annual Performance Art Congress in Muenster, Germany; the Navinki International Performance Festival in Minsk, Belarus; and First Night in Salt Lake City, Utah. In *SMFA Traveling Scholars*, he routinely destroys a forest of Origami trees, questioning whether power and destructive instincts allow for survival of the human race.

Naoko Matsumoto

Naoko Matsumoto (b. 1973, Osaka, Japan) received a Diploma in 2001 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2004 from the Museum School and a Bachelor of Arts from Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan, in 1996. Matsumoto, who returned to her native Japan with her travel funds, has exhibited at the Gallery of Modern Art in Marblehead, Mass. and the Lynn Arts Gallery in Lynn, Mass., and was an Artist-in-Residence at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park in Shiga, Japan. Her life-size ceramic cages, filled with delicate paper eggs, explore freedom and transformation.

Lori A. Paradise

Lori A. Paradise (b. 1976, Framingham, Mass.) received a Diploma in 2003 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2004 from the Museum School and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2000 from Tufts University in partnership with the SMFA. She is the founder and curator of The Gallery at Selletto, Cambridge, Mass., which shows the work of established and emerging artists in an environment that reaches out beyond the art world to the greater public.

Paradise visited both Florida and Minnesota with her Traveling Scholarship Award funds, and is planning a future trip to Eastern Europe. Her colorful installations, which spread across the walls and floor, are created from recycled materials.

JURORS

The jury that selected Traveling Scholars from among the alumni submissions was comprised of Bill Arning, curator at the List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Jeffrey Keough, Director of Exhibitions, Massachusetts College of Art; and artist Senam Okudzeto. Recipients from the Fifth Year program were chosen by Jordan Bastien, director at Andrea Rosen Gallery in New York City; Pieranna Cavalchini, curator of contemporary art at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and artist and alumna Sheila Pepe.

HISTORY OF TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1894, James William Paige left a bequest of \$30,000 to the Museum School to establish a scholarship, the income of which would be used to send SMFA students to study art in Europe for a period of two years. This gift had a stipulation that an additional \$10,000 had to be raised and added to the bequest. By 1899, the additional monies had been raised and the first traveling scholar, Mary Brewster Hazelton, sailed to Europe. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Traveling Scholarship Award recipients typically traveled to Paris, Rome, or Florence and received \$800 per year for two years. These days, Traveling Scholars journey across the globe and the award pool is between \$80,000 and \$100,000 annually.

RELATED EVENTS

To complement the exhibition, artists will discuss their work in two gallery talks. Gallery talks are free with admission to the MFA.

Thursday, March 2, 11 AM

Hannah Barrett, Naoko Matsumoto, and Rachel Perry Welty

Thursday, March 9, 11 AM

Cliff Evans, Bryce Kauffman, and Lori A. Paradise

EXHIBITION HOURS

SMFA Traveling Scholars

February 18–April 12, 2006

Monday and Tuesday 10 AM–4:45 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday* 10 AM–9:45 PM

Saturday and Sunday 10 AM–4:45 PM

*Thursday and Friday after 4:45 PM, only the West Wing and other selected galleries, including *SMFA Traveling Scholars*, are open.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Available upon request by contacting Sarah Wheeler at 617-369-3605 or swheeler@smfa.edu.

For more information on the exhibition, visit www.smfa.edu.

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School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA)

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, and in

partnership with Tufts University, the Museum School offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), the BFA in Art Education, the five year Combined-Degree (BA or BS with BFA), the Master of Arts in Teaching in Art Education, and the Master of Fine Arts. The 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, high school workshops, and summer art-making programs for teens also are available. For more information, visit www.smfa.edu or call 617-267-6100.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA)

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is recognized for the quality and scope of its encyclopedic collection, which includes an estimated 450,000 objects. The Museum's collection is made up of: Art of the Americas; Art of Europe; Contemporary Art; Art of Asia, Oceania and Africa; Art of the Ancient World; Prints, Drawings and Photographs; Textile and Fashion Arts; and Musical Instruments.

Open seven days a week, the MFA's hours are: Saturday–Sunday 10 AM–4:45 PM, Monday–Tuesday 10 AM–4:45 PM, Wednesday–Friday 10 AM–9:45 PM (Thursday and Friday after 4:45 PM only the West Wing is open).

General admission (which includes two visits in a 10 day period, but does not include Gund Gallery exhibitions) is \$15 for adults and \$13 for senior citizens and students age 18 and above (students who are University Members are free). Admission is free for children 17 years of age and under during non-school hours. Thursday and Friday evenings after 5:00 p.m., admission is reduced by \$2. Wednesdays after 4:00 p.m., admission is by voluntary contribution. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Patriot's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For general visitor information, visit the MFA website at www.mfa.org or call 617.267.9300.