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

Boston (January 22, 2007) — *SMFA Traveling Scholars*, opening February 10, 2007, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), presents current work by the 2005 recipients of the prestigious Traveling Scholarships awarded annually by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA). The five prize-winning artists include two 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 photography, installation, film, and painting—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 March 11, 2007.

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 2005 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:

Bethany Bristow

Bethany Bristow (b. 1970, St. Johnsbury, Vt.) received a Diploma in 1993 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 1994 from the SMFA. She has had solo exhibitions at the Howard Yezerski Gallery, Boston, and Elaine Levy Project in Brussels, Belgium, and her work is included in the collections of the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Mass.; Rose Art Museum of Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.; and Simmons College, Boston.

A two-time Traveling Scholarship Award recipient, Bristow is a tourist memorializing her travels in emotional “self-portraits.” Her temporary site-specific installations—made from melted glass bottles and jars, feathers, and corn syrup—meld into cityscapes across Asia and serve to create a connection with a foreign place.

Audrey Goldstein

Audrey Goldstein (b. 1954, Brooklyn, N.Y.) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the SMFA in 1977 and a Master of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art in 1999. Goldstein, the fine arts program director at New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University, has exhibited at Kingston Gallery, Boston; the New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University, Boston; and the Concord Art Association, Concord, Mass., among others.

Goldstein’s sculptures are complex mechanical devices—relatively mute and non-operative—that engage the viewer in visual and physical play and imply a resolution of the mind-body relationship.

Asuka Ohsawa

Asuka Ohsawa (b. 1973, Torrance, Calif.) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from California State University in 1998 and a Master of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the SMFA in 2002. She is represented by SUNDAY, New York, and has had solo exhibitions at Freight + Volume, New York; Gregory Lind Gallery, San Francisco; and the Firehouse Gallery, Burlington, Vt., among others.

Ohsawa’s gouache-on-paper drawings follow in the tradition of the Japanese genre *giga*, which encompasses a wide range of comic images dating back to the sixth and seventh centuries. The paintings mix black humor with social commentary through animal-like characters featuring human traits, behaviors, and physiques.

The two artists selected from the Fifth Year Certificate program are:

N. Sean Glover

N. Sean Glover (b. 1975, San Diego, Calif.) received a Diploma in 2004 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2005 from the SMFA. His work has been shown in exhibitions at Samson Projects, Boston; the Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine; and Lynn Arts, Lynn, Mass.

Glover, who has also studied at the Lorenzo de' Medici Scuola de Arte in Florence, Italy, creates a universe inspired by the thinking of 18th-century astronomer Thomas Wright and further developed by the ideas of Immanuel Kant. The installation pieces investigate ideas of the past while reflecting today's ever-changing technology.

Aric Mannion

Aric Mannion (b. 1980, Springfield, Mass.) received a Diploma in 2002 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2005 from the SMFA. Mannion, a filmmaker whose work has been shown at the Maine International Film Festival, used his Traveling Scholarship Award funds to travel across Europe and Asia, visiting France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria, with extended stays in Italy and China. The outcome of his travels informed *Island of Lost Souls*, a “moving picture” illustrating exploration, growth, disorientation, and realization.

JURORS

The jury that selected Traveling Scholars from among the alumni submissions was comprised of George Fifield, curator of media arts at the DeCordova Museum and director of Vision Space, Inc.; sculptor Beth Galston; and Sarah Hutt, artist and director for the visual arts programming for the Mayor's Office. Recipients from the Fifth Year program were chosen by Zach Feuer of the Zach Feuer Gallery in New York City; Cheryl Finley, freelance curator and assistant professor of art history at Cornell University; and Susan Stoops, curator of contemporary art at the Worcester Art Museum.

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 a gallery talk. The gallery talk is free with admission to the MFA.

Thursday, March 1, 11 AM

Bethany Bristow, Audrey Goldstein, Aric Mannion, and Asuka Ohsawa

EXHIBITION HOURS

SMFA Traveling Scholars

February 10–March 11, 2007

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 Suzanne Liola Matus at 617-369-3391 or smatus@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.

