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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA) presents 2010 Graduate Colloquium:
Re-imagining Home: a Site for Personal and Social Transformation**
Co-sponsored by Artists in Context; April 12, 2010

Boston, MA (March 31, 2010)—In response to growing concerns about the environment and social inequity, artists, writers, academics and people from all walks of life have started to re-evaluate the way we live and to think about new sustainable forms of living. The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's (SMFA), 2010 Graduate Colloquium addresses the role of home and domestic life within the context of personal, social and political change.

How does the way we live at home impact ourselves, our communities and the world? What are the personal and political implications of our choices—what we eat, what we buy (and don't buy), the way we use our time and design our domestic spaces? How can personal and societal change begin at home? Join us in engaging with these pressing questions.



Edible Estate Regional Prototype Garden #2: Lakewood, California, 2006. Photo by Fritz Haeg.

The colloquium features presentations and a panel discussion with:

Mark Dion and J. Morgan Puett, artists

Together Dion and Puett have recently created a long-term experiment in large-scale, project based practices with a living museum and an attached educational institution called Mildred's Lane. The core of the practice and educational philosophy at Mildred's Lane is to attempt to collectively create new modes of being in the world. This is a place where a work-live-research environment is developed to foster a rigorous engagement with every aspect of life.

Fritz Haeg, artist

Haeg works between his art, architecture and design practice Fritz Haeg Studio, the happenings and gatherings of *Sundown Salon* (now *Sundown Schoolhouse*), the ecology initiatives of *Gardenlab* (including *Edible Estates*) and other various combinations of building, curating, dancing, designing, exhibiting, gardening, organizing, talking, teaching and writing.

Rebecca Kneale Gould, *associate professor of Religion and affiliate in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College*

Gould's book, *At Home in Nature: Modern Homesteading and Spiritual Practice in America*, is an ethnographic and historical study of back-to-the-land and homesteading experiments. Motivated variously by the desire to reject consumerism, to live closer to the earth, to embrace voluntary simplicity or to discover a more spiritual path, homesteaders have made the radical decision to go "back to the land," rejecting modern culture and amenities to live self-sufficiently and in harmony with nature.

Stephanie Smith, *director of Collections and Exhibitions and curator of Contemporary Art at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art*

Smith's work focuses on socially engaged public practices and on issues of art, sustainability and the city. Other research interests include feasting, hospitality, independent cultural infrastructure and the American Midwest.

J.B. Clancy, *architect and partner at Albert, Richter and Tittmann Architects*

Clancy's main focus is residential architecture and sustainable design and his projects have ranged in scale from furniture to houses to the Plan for New York City's Olympic Bid. He is a Certified Passive House Consultant and is currently designing a Passive House for Habitat for Humanity in Vermont.

Since 2002, the Master of Fine Arts Program at the SMFA, in partnership with Tufts University, has offered topics for in-depth examination inviting visiting artists, curators and critics to join graduate students and faculty for a day of presentations, and panel discussions. These colloquia examine contemporary issues and esthetics, attracting leading thinkers in the field.

The 2010 colloquium is funded by the SMFA's MFA Graduate program and Artists in Context, a program of the Arts Company, Cambridge, MA and was developed by SMFA faculty Barbara Gallucci and Lisa Gross (MFA '11).

Date and Location

Monday, April 12, 2010, 10 am–3:30 pm

Remis Auditorium
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

Admission is free and open to the public. Note: attendees must obtain free tickets from a kiosk at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to gain admittance to Remis Auditorium.

Visit www.smfa.edu or www.artistsincontext.org for more information about the event.

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 that is interdisciplinary and self-directed for motivated artists; our graduates are pioneers who help shape the future of contemporary art. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit www.smfa.edu.

Artists in Context, a program of the Arts Company, Cambridge, MA, is a flexible organizational framework designed to assemble artists and other creative thinkers across disciplines to conceptualize new ways of representing and acting upon the critical issues of our time.

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