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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to Celebrate Philanthropist Susan W. Paine at the 16th Annual Medal Award Gala, May 23

Boston (March 18, 2011)—Since 1996, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), has presented the SMFA Medal Award to individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the art world. No matter the occupation, all recipients are united in their commitment to diversifying and communicating with the world through art. In celebration of her support of arts education, SMFA will honor Susan W. Paine at the 16th annual gala on May 23, 2011. The gala event will be held at the Ruth and Carl J. Shapiro Family Courtyard at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Susan, with her late husband Stephen D. Paine, has been instrumental in promoting contemporary art in Boston. Susan is dedicated to supporting arts education through her involvement with numerous Boston-area institutions and is a friend and ally to artists, students and to the many arts professionals who work to ensure a vital cultural life for all. The gala event includes cocktails, dinner, award presentation and a silent auction of student work. Gala proceeds benefit scholarship and additional educational opportunities that are essential for SMFA students on their paths to success.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating Susan Paine for her tremendous impact on Boston’s arts scene, particularly arts education,” say Medal Award committee co-chairs Julie Callaghan, Negin Riahi Ewald and Demetra Taleghani. “Susan has touched the lives of so many emerging artists; we hope that her enduring passion will inspire others to actively support arts education in their communities.”

About Susan W. Paine

Susan W. Paine and her late husband Stephen D. Paine have been instrumental in promoting arts, culture and education in Boston. They have long provided encouragement for emerging artists, seeking out works for their personal collection and supporting the Stephen D. Paine Scholarship, established in 1999 by the Boston Art Dealers Association, which supports students entering their final year in studio art programs at college in the city of Boston.

Susan is deeply involved in a wide range of institutions including roles as president, then chair of the board of trustees at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, during the museum’s recent campaign; trustee emerita of the Boston Athenaeum; formerly on the advisory council of the Boston Foundation for Architecture and trustee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.smfa.edu/medal or call 617-369-3591.

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—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.

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