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

Showcasing work March 28–May 3, 2009 created by recipients of the SMFA's Traveling Scholarship Awards, one of the largest endowed art school grants in the country

Boston (March 27, 2009)—The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is pleased to announce the opening of "**SMFA Traveling Scholars**" on view in the Foster Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) March 28–May 3, 2009. It showcases work by the 2007 recipients of the Traveling Scholarship Awards, one of the largest art school travel grant programs in the country. Since 1899, the Museum School has given Traveling Scholarship Awards—annually totaling \$80,000 to \$100,000—to select alumni and students to further develop their work.

The seven prize-winning artists were selected from the Museum School's intense, all-studio Fifth Year Certificate Program (**Nicolas Brynolfson, Matthew Paul Cleary, Daniel Johnson, and Timothy Andrew Kadish**) and from alumni submissions (**Daniel Dueck, John Osorio-Buck, and Lauren Warner**). The Traveling Scholars program has provided critical, early career support for notable alumni including Nan Goldin, Mike and Doug Starn, Ellen Gallagher, Omer Fast, and recent graduates like Cliff Evans and Rachel Perry Welty.

Hopping the globe from Western Europe, Winnipeg, and New York to Yellowstone National Park, Ecuador, Mexico City, and beyond, each artist's work is informed by a personal, artistic style and is as unique as the destinations to which they traveled. "**SMFA Traveling Scholars**" features paintings, installation, film, video, drawings, and sculpture.

From an installation critiquing America's travel/adventure culture to a cheeky advertising campaign for eternal life planning and large-scale paintings paying homage to nature—grand and untamed, what unites this diverse group of artists is how their work reflects the creativity and risk-taking fostered at the Museum School.

"While it was the centers of Europe that attracted the earliest Traveling Scholars, today our Scholars seek experiences that take them around the globe," said Deborah H. Dluhy, Dean of the School and Deputy Director, MFA. "Their lessons come as much from the artists, craftsmen, and artifacts they encounter as from direct exposure to new cultures, geographies, and lifestyles. While we may see changes in what and how artists study, these experiences continue to be critically important to an artist's education."

Selection of this year's Traveling Scholarship Award recipients was made in 2007 by two independent juries—one jury reviewed work by alumni, while the other selected artists from the Fifth Year program.

"Jurors for "**SMFA Traveling Scholars**" 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 seven individual statements."

RELATED EVENTS

To complement the exhibition, artists will discuss their work in two gallery talks. The talks are free with admission to the MFA. Meet at the Sharf Information Center. For more information call 617-267-9300.

Wednesday, April 8, 6 pm

Matthew Paul Cleary, Daniel Johnson, and John Osorio-Buck

Thursday, April 16, 11 am

Daniel Dueck, Timothy Andrew Kadish, and Lauren Warner

EXHIBITION LOCATION

"SMFA Traveling Scholars"

March 28–May 3, 2009

Foster Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

For more information about the exhibition, visit www.mfa.org or call 617-267-9300.

For high-resolution images contact Brooke Witkowski at 617-369-6305 or bwitkowski@smfa.edu.

TRAVELING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

Daniel Dueck

Dueck (b. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 1972) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg in 1997 and a Master in Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the Museum School in 2002. He has had solo exhibitions at the Allston Skirt Gallery, Boston (2002, 2005) and recent group exhibitions include Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art Gallery, Winnipeg (2007), ZieherSmith Gallery, New York (2005), and Lump Gallery/Projects, Raleigh, NC (2005), among others. Dueck traveled to his home city of Winnipeg, Ecuador, and California.

Dueck's poetic creatures are born from spontaneous spills and splatters of paint. The whimsical nature of his elephant is reminiscent of a children's book character. Treading a fine line between fantasy and reality, Dueck's work explores issues of identity and memory.

John Osorio-Buck

Osorio-Buck (b. Davis, CA, 1969) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the Museum School and a Diploma from the Museum School both in 2003. His recently exhibited at the Boston Center for the Arts (2008), Sculpture Space, Utica, NY (2008), the Essex Art Center, Lawrence, MA (2007), and Art Omi International Arts Center, Ghent, NY (2007), among others. He will travel to Norway later this year.

Osorio-Buck's work explores the Utopian/Dystopian duality of the American traditions of freedom, self-sufficiency, and conquest of new frontiers. His traveling shelter, comprised mainly of recycled and waste materials, provides a dual perspective of the American travel/adventure culture: it is both a symbol of America's pioneering spirit and a reflection of a failed Utopia as older travel structures are left littering driveways and lots in favor of a newer, sleeker version.

Lauren Warner

Warner (b. Dayton, OH, 1977) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio University in 1999, a Master of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the Museum School in 2004, and is pursuing a

Certificate of Horticulture at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. She has exhibited at the Islip Art Museum (2006), Freight + Volume Gallery, New York (2005) and GASP Gallery, Brookline, MA (2004), among others.

During Warner's visits to Yellowstone National Park, she expected to turn a critical eye to the man-made tourism created there; viewing platforms and staging areas surrounding Yellowstone's famous geysers create a heightened expectation of "performance" by these geological occurrences. Despite man's attempt to control the environment, these natural events continue to operate on their own terms. Her lush paintings attempt to capture the long anticipated moment of eruption—the scenic climax—together serving as a concentrated gallery of nature's greatest hits.

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

Nicolas Brynolfson

Brynolfson (b. Princeton, NJ, 1979) received a Diploma in 2006 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2007 from the Museum School and is currently enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts program at the California Institute of the Arts. He traveled to Mexico City, Cuernavaca, and the ancient ruins of Xochicalco.

Brynolfson's film *Sunburns* is an exploration of the intersection of tangible and visual. He directs solar energy through a magnifying glass burning an imprint of the rays onto a film strip. By projecting the film the burn imprints transform: the light of the projector takes the place of the sun and human eye becomes the receiving surface.

Matthew Paul Cleary

Cleary (b. Boston, MA, 1972) received a Diploma in 2006 and a Fifth Year Certificate in 2007 from the Museum School. He has exhibited at Boston Center for the Arts (2008), the RHYS Gallery, Boston (2007), among others, and will have a solo exhibition at GASP Gallery, Brookline, MA in 2009. Cleary is represented by Lamorong Gallery in China.

The driving force in Cleary's work is a curiosity about patterns in nature and how they are mimicked in sacred geometry and architecture. Traveling through Western Europe, Cleary was deeply inspired by the medieval Renaissance churches of France and Italy. His installation re-imagines the Last Supper through the lens of his painting style and philosophies about religion and art.

Daniel Johnson

Johnson (b. Destin, FL, 1984) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tufts University in partnership with the Museum School in 2006 and a Diploma and Fifth Year Certificate from the Museum School in 2006 and 2007.

Johnson's videos and paintings form an advertising campaign for After Life, a postmortem retirement service where clients continue to live on in a virtual reality. Shaped by the sudden death of a family member, his work presents unique perspectives on death, life after death, and coping mechanisms for those left behind.

Timothy Andrew Kadish

Kadish (b. Haverhill, MA, 1981) received a Diploma and Fifth Year Certificate from the Museum School in 2006 and 2007. He has exhibited at Kathryn Schultz Gallery, Cambridge, MA (2008), MPG Contemporary, Boston (2007), and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (2004, 2005), among others.

Kadish traveled to Germany, Switzerland, France, and Spain "exploring the sensibilities of places that have such different past/history than we do." A wide variety of techniques coexist in Kadish's work—from thick, frosting-like rainbows of oil paint to Asian-inspired images and computer graphics. Exploring 21st-century views on history and current events, his paintings and installations present a unique contribution to contemporary culture.

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.

About the 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, is one of the largest and oldest museum schools in the country. A division of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the School offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in partnership with Tufts and Northeastern universities. 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 and art-making programs for adults and teenagers also are available. For more information, please visit www.smfa.edu.

About the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA)

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), 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 through Tuesday, 10 am–4:45 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 10 am–9:45 pm. General admission (which includes two visits in a 10-day period) is \$17 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students age 18 and older. Admission for students who are University Members is free, as is admission for children 17 years of age and younger during non-school hours. No general admission fee is required during Citizens Bank Foundation Wednesday Nights (after 4 p.m.). Voluntary donations are welcome. Gund Gallery exhibition are ticketed events that require an additional fee. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Patriots' Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For general information, visit the MFA website at www.mfa.org or call 617.267.9300.

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