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## THE BMA PRESENTS BALTIMORE INK: PATTERNS ON BODIES

*Special event showcases best in national and local tattoo art*

**BALTIMORE, MD** (March 5, 2008)—Visit the BMA for **Baltimore Ink: Patterns on Bodies** on **Saturday, May 31, 2008**, to meet nationally acclaimed tattoo artists—in the flesh! This special ticketed event, presented in conjunction with the BMA's exhibition *Meditations on African Art: Pattern*, begins with a talk about the state of tattoo art at 7 p.m., followed by an 8:30 p.m. runway show and after-party featuring some of Baltimore's most innovative ink. Ticket prices are \$20 for both the talk and runway show (\$15 for students with I.D.), and \$10 for the tattoo runway show only. Tickets go on sale April 5, and are available by phone at the BMA Box Office at 443-573-1701 or online at artbma.org. For more information, call 443-573-1832.



Design by Mitch O'Connell

For centuries tattoos have been used to identify, mark, map, and beautify the body, and today remain a popular means of artistic and personal expression. In Africa, body scarification and tattooing affirms ethnic identity, social status within community, and the permanent transition into adulthood. *Meditations on African Art: Pattern*, on view until August 17, explores the relationship between patterns and the human body through intricately decorated figurative sculptures. The exhibition will be open during the event.

### Talk – 7 p.m.

Join Bob Baxter, Editor-in-Chief of *Skin & Ink* magazine, for a discussion on the popularity of tattoos in mainstream culture. Advance tickets are highly recommended. Baxter is joined by some of the most renowned names in the tattoo world:

**Kip Fulbeck** (Santa Barbara) author of *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits* by Kip Fulbeck and Professor of Art at University of California, Santa Barbara

**Jacci Gresham** (New Orleans) first female African-American tattoo artist

**Mitch O'Connell** (Chicago) author of *Mitch O'Connell: Tattoos* and acclaimed flash artist

**Lyle Tuttle** (San Francisco) forefather of modern tattooing and legendary tattoo artist

**Zulu** (Los Angeles) tattoo artist for celebrities such as Janet Jackson and Christina Aguilera

### Runway Show & After-Party – 8:30 p.m.

Meet Baltimore tattoo artists Jacki Randall (Charm City Tattoo), Tom and Mick Beasley (Dragon Moon Tattoo), Vinnie Myers (Little Vinnie's Tattoos), Jim Judeikis (Saints & Sinners), Scott Clayton (Tattoo Charlie's), and Johnny Love (Tattooed Heart). Ask the experts questions that you were always afraid to ask, show off your tattoos, or get a semi-permanent one of your own! Also attend a book signing by Kip Fulbeck and "flashmaster general" Mitch O'Connell. After-party includes a DJ and cash bar. Early reservations are highly recommended as the runway show is anticipated to sell out!

**Participate**

Be a part of Baltimore Ink! The BMA invites you to submit tattoo designs inspired by a work of art at the Museum. Beginning March 31, submissions can be uploaded to the BMA's Baltimore Ink Group on Flickr. Post your design along with its title as well as the title of the artwork in the BMA's collection that inspired you. Submission deadline is May 12. Complete submission details are available at [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

Winners will be announced during the Baltimore Ink event on May 31. The prize package includes signed copies of *Mitch O'Connell: Tattoos* and *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits by Kip Fulbeck*. The first place winner will also receive a free one-year subscription to *Skin and Ink* magazine.

**MEDITATIONS ON AFRICAN ART: PATTERN**

March 12 – August 17, 2008

*Free exhibition*

The third and final installation in the BMA's *Meditations on African Art* series, *Pattern* features more than 70 diverse works—many on view for the first time—that define the shape and surface of African art. Dramatic textiles, fragile adinkra dye stamps, delicately carved ivories, boldly painted shields, and figurative works show the role of pattern in cultural style, body adornment, and dynamic visual design. Nigerian-born, London-based artist Mary Evans has created several site-specific works for the exhibition, including video montages detailing the slave trade in British port cities, West Africa, and on plantations in the southern U.S. that are viewed through a kaleidoscope; floor-to-ceiling intricately patterned murals; and framed works on paper. She has also created a series of rosettes for the windows above the BMA's Visitors Entrance.

This exhibition is curated by Karen Milbourne, BMA Associate Curator of the Arts of Africa.

The *Meditations* series is generously sponsored by Polk Audio, Matthew Polk and Amy Gould.

**ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the Museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. As a major cultural destination for the greater Baltimore region, the BMA organizes and presents a variety of dynamic exhibitions and innovative programs throughout the year, and frequently hosts special events with cultural and educational partners. The Museum is located in a park-like setting in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. It is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope with an impressive wing for contemporary art added in 1994.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission to the BMA is free. Special events and exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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