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BMA BEGINS MUCH-ANTICIPATED RENOVATION

West Wing for Contemporary Art is start of three-year \$24 million project

BALTIMORE, MD (December 30, 2010)—This spring, the BMA begins renovating the 16 galleries that house its outstanding collection of contemporary art as part of a three-year \$24 million capital renovation. When it reopens in spring 2012, the West Wing for Contemporary Art will offer a more comprehensive and of-the-moment look at the BMA's masterpieces of contemporary art from Abstract Expressionism to the present. The last day to visit this area of the Museum before it closes for renovation is Sunday, January 16, 2011.

The BMA's 10-building complex, which was built over the span of 65 years from 1929 to 1994, encompasses more than 210,000 square feet. The full scope of the capital renovation includes enhancing the galleries for three major collections (Contemporary, American, and African), improving visitor amenities, and upgrading essential infrastructure by 2014, the Museum's 100th anniversary. This unprecedented physical transformation is vital to the Museum's future, ensuring the BMA is relevant to future generations of museum goers and an even greater cultural magnet for the region.

Plans for the dynamic new installation of the Contemporary Wing include incorporating a greater variety of media—from prints and photography to projected works—that reveal previously unseen strengths of the Museum's contemporary art collection. The works will also be reorganized to explore important thematic developments in art during the past 60 years. Mobile technologies that can be customized based on interests will offer visitors exciting new opportunities to learn about the BMA's exceptional works by Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Helen Frankenthaler and many other noteworthy 20th- and 21st-century artists.

Additional renovation highlights include:

- A new black box media gallery with rotations of film, video, and digital artworks that show the latest developments in time-based media
- A project space for changing exhibitions
- Contemporary prints, drawings, and photographs in a dedicated gallery and throughout the Wing
- Site-specific commissions in architectural spaces

Physical improvements to the galleries include wireless (WiFi) access, state-of-the-art lighting, fresh wall and floor finishes, a new roof, and improved electrical systems that will provide a better setting for the BMA's diverse collection of more than 5,000 contemporary objects.

The Contemporary Wing renovations are being completed by Baltimore-based Marshall Craft Associates architectural firm, which has replaced eight of the Museum's 10 roofs over the years, and has experience with many Smithsonian museum projects. The new lighting system is being designed by the New York-based Renfro Design Group, known for its work on the Grand Central Station Terminal and The Morgan Library & Museum in New York and the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

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Significant public funds as well as private donations are making this opportunity possible. The project will be funded in part by a \$10 million multi-year commitment from the State of Maryland, as well as \$2.45 million in bond support from the City of Baltimore. Contributions to *In a New Light: The Campaign for The Baltimore Museum of Art* will fund the match for the renovations.

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, the BMA's outstanding collection encompasses 90,000 works of art, including the largest and most significant holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world, as well as masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent van Gogh. An expanding collection of contemporary art features iconic post-1960 works by Andy Warhol and Sol LeWitt, as well as exciting acquisitions by artists such as Kara Walker and Olafur Eliasson. The BMA is also recognized for an internationally acclaimed collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15th-century to the present; grand European painting and sculpture from Old Masters to the 19th-century; distinguished American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts and Maryland period rooms; one of the most important African collections in the country, and notable examples of Asian, ancient American, and Pacific Islands art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free; some special events may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (except major holidays). 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.

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