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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **BMA LATE NIGHT EVENT CELEBRATES BAKER ARTIST AWARDS 2011 WINNERS**

BALTIMORE, MD (September 30, 2011)—Life-size artwork you can step into, a dazzling aerial spectacle, musical improvisations, alternative theater, and Baltimore's best authors, poets, and singer/songwriters—don't miss an electrifying evening of performances and art at the **BMA Late Night** on **Saturday, October 1 from 7 to 11 p.m.** Featuring the 2011 Baker Artist Award winners, this FREE Late Night event includes access to the [Baker Artist Awards 2011](#) exhibition during extended evening hours, performances, DJ, light fare, and cash bar. This is the culminating event for the exhibition, which closes on October 2, 2011.

Late Night highlights the winners of the \$25,000 Mary Sawyers Baker prize with performances by experimental musician [Audrey Chen](#) and beatboxer/vocal percussionist [Shodekeh](#), and a room-size installation of detailed drawings by visual artist [Gary Kachadourian](#). Chen uses her cello, voice, and electronics to create unique sound compositions. Shodekeh emulates various instruments and soundscapes, such as drum sets, turntables, ocean waves, and sleigh bells. Kachadourian's photocopied and enlarged drawings cover every wall in the gallery—as well as the floor and parts of the ceiling—with life-sized bricks, trees, lamp posts, and other everyday objects. Special Late Night performances by \$1,000 b-grant prize winners [Copycat Theatre](#), [Mara Neimanis](#), [Fernando Quijano III](#), [Nelly's Echo](#), [Justin Sirois](#), [ellen cherry](#), and [Michelle Antionette Nelson](#) continue the celebration of Baltimore's talented artistic community. For more information about the artists, visit [bakerartistawards.org](http://bakerartistawards.org).

The Baker Artist Awards are directed by the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund with the assistance of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. The exhibition is supported by the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund.

### **BAKER ARTIST AWARDS**

The Baker Artist Awards was established by the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund to recognize individual artists of all disciplines who live and work in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties. Mary Sawyers Baker established the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund in 1964 to honor her husband, a founding partner in Baker Watts, a Baltimore investment banking firm. In 2007, the fund narrowed its philanthropic mission to focus on arts and culture. In 2008, the fund's Board of Governors honored its founder, Ms. Baker, by establishing the Baker Artist Awards. The annual awards provide unconditional financial support for emerging and well established artists, signifying to regional, national, and international communities that Baltimore values its artists and rewards their work. Artists submitted their work to the competition at [bakerartistawards.org](http://bakerartistawards.org), where thousands of visitors from all over the world voted online for their favorite artists. Each year up to three artists are chosen by a private jury to receive the \$25,000 Mary Sawyers Baker Prize. The submissions of the prize winners and all of the nominees may be viewed at [bakerartistawards.org](http://bakerartistawards.org).

**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; special exhibitions 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](http://artbma.org).

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