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ART ON PURPOSE EXPLORES POE'S HAUNTING THEMES WITH EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS

BALTIMORE, MD (September 11, 2009)—The BMA has partnered with Art on Purpose to present *Baltimore Inspired by Poe*, an exhibition of drawings, collages, and paintings by Baltimore residents creatively inspired to interpret the themes of Poe's stories and poems. The Art on Purpose exhibition is presented October 4, 2009 – January 17, 2010, concurrent with *Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon*, the BMA's artistic tribute to the master of the macabre. Both exhibitions explore the enduring relevance of signature themes in Poe's writing: love and loss, fear and terror, and madness and obsession.

Guided by artist/instructors Andy Cook, Tonya Gregg, Valeska Populoh, and Marty Weishaar, workshop participants at the Light Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast Anchor, and Waverly branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library created more than 100 vivid works earlier this year. The community artists come from a range of personal and artistic backgrounds, but are united by their ability to find resonance with Poe's legacy and to express their responses in ways that inspire us to find our own connections to the writer. A selection of their works is presented in the BMA's McCall Gallery. The exhibition is guest curated by Art on Purpose Director Peter Bruun.

Baltimore Inspired by Poe is made possible by the generous support of Robbye and Kevin Apperson, with additional support from Rosenberg | Martin | Greenberg, LLP. In-kind support for framing is provided by Fleckenstein Gallery & Archival Framing.

Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon features 35 prints, five drawings, and more than 40 illustrated books by renowned French artists such as Paul Gauguin, Édouard Manet, and Odilon Redon, as well as surrealist René Magritte and abstract expressionist Robert Motherwell. The exhibition highlights three artistic and literary themes: love and loss, fear and terror, and madness and obsession.

Art on Purpose is a community arts organization dedicated to the notion that art has an intrinsic value that is best revealed when it connects and engages with real life concerns. Since its founding in 2005, Art on Purpose has provided free theme-based art workshops to over 1,000 Baltimore residents and presented dozens of exhibitions. Art on Purpose views artists' expressions and community interests as equally important, and believes each can enhance the other.

In addition to the exhibition, Art on Purpose has organized two community programs that address important social issues.



Andy Cook, *Untitled*, 2009. Courtesy the Artist. Photo by Art on Purpose

— more —

ART ON PURPOSE PROGRAM: Fear & Terror in the City

Sunday, October 11, 3-4 p.m.

FREE

What do we fear, why do we fear it, and when are our fears based on reality or not? WEAA host Marc Steiner leads a discussion on fear in the city with guest speakers Dr. Christopher Leighton, Executive Director of Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, and Ralph E. Moore, Jr., Director of the Community Center at St. Frances Academy. Joining the are Baltimore residents Wallace Farmer of Harlem Park, Kathie McCleskey of Federal Hill, and Ede Taylor of Belair-Edison. A reception in honor of communities participating in the *Baltimore Inspired by Poe* exhibition follows in the McCall Gallery. For more information, call Art on Purpose at 410-243-4750. **FREE**

ART ON PURPOSE PROGRAM: Addiction & Art: Flip-sides of Madness and Obsession

Sunday, November 1, 3-4 p.m.

FREE

Artists, performers, and medical experts explore the connection between art and addiction, and how art has the power to shed light on addiction and recovery. Featuring guest speaker Dr. Jack E. Henningfield, Director, Innovators Combating Substance Abuse Awards program. A reception follows at 4 pm in the McCall Gallery. For more information, call Art on Purpose at 410-243-4750. **FREE**

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.

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