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THE BMA'S FRONT ROOM SERIES CONTINUES WITH DIETER ROTH AND RACHEL HARRISON

BALTIMORE, MD (July 24, 2008)— Chocolate, cheese, and fried dumplings aren't what you would usually expect as the subjects for museum-worthy artworks, yet in its upcoming Front Room exhibition the BMA features two artists who manage to do just that. On view from **October 12, 2008 to January 4, 2009**, the BMA's experimental project space pairs the work of Dieter Roth (German, 1930-1998) and Rachel Harrison (American, b.1966) to coincide with the opening of the exhibition *Franz West, To Build a House You Start with the Roof*. Separated by generations and continents, Roth and Harrison overlap both formally and conceptually in approximately 15 two- and three-dimensional artworks from the BMA's collection that expose their shared sensibilities.

Both Roth and Harrison use the stuff from everyday life, ranging from food items to daily cast-offs to bric-a-brac and magazine pictures, to grapple with issues of decay and impermanence. Roth takes a simple postcard and transforms it into a glittery pastiche of images that embrace the abstract as well as the photographic. Harrison, whose work was featured in the Whitney Biennial 2008, fashions three-dimensional forms that range from the bulbous to the architectonic. Rachel Harrison is a contributor to the Franz West exhibition catalogue and Roth was both a friend of West's and a participant in the art scene of Vienna, where West still resides.

Front Room: Dieter Roth & Rachel Harrison is curated by Darsie Alexander, BMA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art.

SELECT PROGRAMS

Docent-led Tours

Wednesdays, October 22 and November 19 at 2 p.m.

Enjoy an informative tour of *Front Room: Dieter Roth & Rachel Harrison* and learn about the inspiration behind the artworks and the artists' relationship with Franz West.

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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.

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