



**Media Contacts:**

Anne Mannix, amannix@artbma.org  
Tarun Bhatnagar, tbatnagar@artbma.org  
Sarah Pedroni, spedroni@artbma.org  
443-573-1870

## SPINE-TINGLING EVENTS INSPIRED BY POE AT THE BMA THIS FALL

BALTIMORE, MD (September 11, 2009) — In conjunction with *Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon*, the BMA presents a thrilling variety of Poe-inspired exhibitions and programs that creatively explore themes of the author's unforgettable tales. Don't miss seeing the related Art on Purpose *Baltimore Inspired by Poe* exhibition, the BMA's *Mournful Maidens: Love and Loss in American Embroidery* exhibition, or the whirlwind creations from The 48 Hour Film Project. Join in panel discussions on urban fears and obsessions or participate in a book discussion with acclaimed psychiatrists/authors Dr. Jacqueline Olds and Dr. Richard Schwartz about loneliness in contemporary society. Free Family Sunday activities are Poe-themed throughout the month of October. For more information about the following programs, call 443-573-1832 or e-mail [programs@artbma.org](mailto:programs@artbma.org).

### EXHIBITIONS

***Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon***, on view October 4, 2009 – January 17, 2010, is a dramatic exhibition of 35 prints, five drawings, and more than 40 illustrated books inspired by the master of the macabre. Featuring the works of renowned French artists 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. FREE

***Baltimore Inspired by Poe***, on view October 4, 2009 – January 17, 2010, features drawings, collages, and paintings created by Baltimore artists and residents who participated in Art on Purpose workshops at four Enoch Pratt Free Library branches earlier this year. Guided by teaching artists Andy Cook, Tonya Gregg, Valeska Populoh, and Marty Weishaar, participants were creatively inspired to interpret the themes of Poe's stories and poems. FREE

***Mournful Maidens: Love and Loss in American Embroidery***, on view September 9, 2009 – February 21, 2010, reveals a preoccupation with death and loss decades before Poe wrote his dark romantic poems and novels. This intimate exhibition features approximately 15 embroideries created in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as prints and mourning jewelry from the BMA's collection. FREE

### PROGRAMS

#### **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

—more—

**ART ON PURPOSE PROGRAM: Addiction & Art: 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**

**48 HOUR FILM PROJECT: A Cinematic Celebration of Edgar Allan Poe**

*Fridays, December 4 & 11, 6 p.m. gallery opens; 8 p.m. screening*

Poe's chilling and unforgettable tales lend themselves to cinematic expression and many of his works have been adapted for the screen. A select group of local filmmakers was invited to produce short movies inspired by Poe and the BMA's exhibition. Each film team was assigned one of the three exhibition themes and chose a character and a line of dialogue from one of Poe's works. Forty-eight hours later, they completed a movie. Films will be screened each Friday in the BMA's Meyerhoff Auditorium. For more information, visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org). **FREE**

**FREE FAMILY SUNDAYS: Thrills, Chills, and Spell-binding Tales**

*Sundays in October, 2-4 p.m.*

Celebrate Baltimore's beloved Poe by spinning your own spooky tale of art and creating creepy crawly characters straight from one of the author's popular stories. It's sure to be a RAVEN good time! **FREE**

**October 4: Spine-tingling Storyboards** – Writers often rely on the help of artists to illustrate their work. Today, create a storyboard reflective of your favorite story penned by Poe.

**October 11: Shadow Puppets at Play** – Construct characters to star in your very own Shadow Puppet Play.

**October 18: Riveting Ravens** – Bring Poe's feathery friend to life and construct a raven from recycled material.

**October 25: Family Tour** – Ghosts of the BMA

**TALK & DISCUSSION: The Lonely American**

*Sunday, January 10, 3-4 p.m.*

**FREE**

Join WYPR Culture Contributor Tom Hall for a community conversation about loneliness and its impact on modern society with Dr. Jacqueline Olds and Dr. Richard Schwartz, authors of *The Lonely American: Drifting Apart in the Twenty-First Century* (2009). Olds and Schwartz's work follows up on Robert D. Putnam's *Bowling Alone*, which brought wide attention to America's vanishing sense of community and our isolation from one another. The authors demonstrate how our cultural focus on productivity and being busy isolates us, creating a vicious cycle of loneliness that has a negative impact on civil engagement. Olds and Schwartz are both Associate Clinical Professors of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and also the authors of *Overcoming Loneliness in Everyday Life* and *Marriage in Motion*.

**Alone**

From childhood's hour I have not been  
As others were; I have not seen  
As others saw; I could not bring  
My passions from a common spring.  
From the same source I have not taken  
My sorrow; I could not awaken  
My heart to joy at the same tone;  
And all I loved, I loved alone.

*--Excerpt from the poem 'Alone' by Edgar Allan Poe*

**TOURS: Third Thursday Curatorial Tours**

*Thursday, October 15, 1 p.m.*

Explore *Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon* with BMA Director Doreen Bolger. Space is limited. For reservations, call 443-537-1823. **FREE**

*Thursday, December 17, 1 p.m.*

Explore *Mournful Maidens: Love and Loss in American Embroidery* with Curator Anita Jones. Space is limited. For reservations, call 443-537-1823. **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](http://artbma.org).

**###**