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THE BMA PRESENTS MAJOR NEW ACQUISITION IN FRONT ROOM: RIPPLE EFFECT

BALTIMORE, MD (June 1, 2007)—The latest in a series of installations in The Baltimore Museum of Art's new experimental project space, **Front Room: Ripple Effect**, on view through **September 2, 2007**, explores how a new acquisition can set into motion provocative and often unforeseen relationships with existing works of art in the BMA's collection.

Chandelier with Hands (2006) by Swiss artist Thomas Hirschhorn is the centerpiece that brings together these disparate works of art. Using mass-produced materials such as brown plastic tape, rough-hewn wood, bubblewrap, and painted plastic hands, Hirschhorn's work resembles a meat rack and stems from the artist's concern with the "hardening of the world in which we live." In *Ripple Effect*, this powerful work of art shares common themes and iconographies such as the presence of hands, crosses, and bodies. Examples range from Albrecht Dürer's *Crucifixion, The Large Passion* (c. 1497–1498) and Andy Warhol's *Electric Chair* (1971) to William Klein's photograph of dirty extended fingers of an unseen man in *Beruit, Lebanon* (1936) and Alma Lavenson's photograph *Self-Portrait (Hands on Camera)* (1986). Shown together in the same space, the exhibition demonstrates how the presence of one work of art in the collection creates a ripple effect by complicating and altering the impressions of others.

This exhibition is curated by BMA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Darsie Alexander.

The *Front Room* series is generously sponsored by Stiles Tuttle Colwill, Nancy Dorman, Katherine M. Hardiman, and Elaine and Solomon Snyder.

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

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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

Beginning October 1, general admission to the BMA will be free. Special 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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