



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Anne Mannix
amannix@artbma.org

Kelly Linton
klinton@artbma.org

Sarah Pedroni
spedroni@artbma.org

443-573-1870

THE BMA'S MODERN MASTERS SERIES CONTINUES WITH RODIN EXHIBITION

BALTIMORE, MD (May 25, 2007) —The Modern Masters Series at the BMA continues with this intimate one-gallery exhibition exploring the legacy of the great French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840–1917). One of the most popular sculptors of the early 20th century, Rodin changed the face of figurative sculpture for the modern era, introducing a new age of artistic expression and inspiring a generation of artists from Edgar Degas to Henri Matisse. **Rodin: Expression & Influence**, on view **August 1, 2007 – April 6, 2008**, showcases nearly 30 works from the BMA's collection by Rodin and his contemporaries, many on display for the first time.

Highlights of the exhibition include Rodin's *The Thinker*, one of the artist's most well-known and iconic works, as well as four bronze casts of the great French writer Honoré de Balzac. The two busts, one head, and a full standing figure reveal Rodin's extensive campaign to monumentalize this literary giant. Other featured works include the bust *Mignon*, depicting Rodin's long-time companion Rose Beuret; figure studies from *The Burghers of Calais*, one of Rodin's most heroic and moving historical tributes; and two figures from the *Vase of the Titans*.

Rodin: Expression & Influence also features sculpture by Emile Antoine Bourdelle, Edgar Degas, Charles Despiau, Auguste Renoir, Aristide Maillol, and Pablo Picasso—as well as a selection of works on paper. In addition to presenting Rodin's expressive variations, the exhibition traces the ways in which his artistic process charted new territory and both inspired and provoked reaction from his contemporaries.

Rodin: Expression & Influence is curated by Associate Curator of European Painting & Sculpture Dr. Oliver Shell. The exhibition is generously supported by Stiles Tuttle Colwil and Jonathan Gargiulo.

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

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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 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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