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BMA PRESENTS EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY SONDHEIM ARTSCAPE PRIZE FINALISTS

BALTIMORE, MD (June 17, 2011) —The Baltimore Museum of Art along with the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts presents **Sondheim Artscape Prize: 2011 Finalists**, an exhibition of sculpture, photography, and multi-media installations by the five finalists for the sixth annual Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize. This highly anticipated summer exhibition is on view at the BMA June 25 – August 7, 2011.

Stephanie Barber, Louie Palu, Mark Parascandola, Matthew Porterfield, and Rachel Rotenberg are the 2011 finalists. They were selected by an independent panel of jurors to compete for a \$25,000 fellowship that is given each year to a visual artist or visual artist collaborators living and working in the Greater Baltimore region. The jurors review the exhibition and interview each artist to decide the winner of this prestigious award, which is announced during a special ceremony at the BMA on Saturday, July 9 at 7 p.m. The 2011 jurors are: Polly Apfelbaum, a New York-based artist; Isolde Brielmaier, an independent curator and writer; Lucy Gallun, a curatorial assistant in the Photography department of The Museum of Modern Art; and Tina Kukielski, a member of the team curating the 56th Carnegie International, a leading global survey of contemporary art.

The Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize is held in conjunction with the annual Artscape juried exhibition and is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. The finalists and semifinalists exhibitions are presented in partnership with The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) and Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). An exhibition of the remaining semifinalists' work will be shown in the Decker and Meyerhoff galleries of the MICA, located at 1303 West Mount Royal Avenue during Artscape weekend on Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17. Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year on Mount Royal Avenue and North Charles Street. For more information on the 2011 Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize, visit artbma.org or artscape.org.

The exhibition is generously supported by Stiles Tuttle Colwill. Additional support is provided by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Rabinowitz.

The 2011 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize is made possible by a generous grant from The Abell Foundation. Additional support is provided by Alex. Brown Charitable Foundation, The Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation, Charlesmead Foundation, Ellen Dankert, France-Merrick Foundation, Willard Hackerman, The Hecht-Levi Foundation, Legg Mason, John Sondheim, and an anonymous donor.

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JANET & WALTER SONDHEIM ARTSCAPE PRIZE FINALISTS

Stephanie Barber (Baltimore, MD)

Stephanie Barber is a multi-media artist who writes, makes films, and creates performance pieces that incorporate music, literature, and moving images. Much of her work is informed by poetry and the poetics inherent in the formal concerns of all art. Her work has been extensively featured in festivals and venues around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of Art in New York; The Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, OH; London's Tate Modern; the San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Art and The Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art; the New York Film Festival; and Film Festival Rotterdam. She has had numerous books published including *poems* in 2006 and *for a lawn poem* in 2007. Her book *these here separated to see how they standing alone or the soundtrack to six films by stephanie barber* was published in 2008 and 2010 and features the essay *the inversion, transcription, evening track and attractor*, which was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Louie Palu (Washington, D.C.)

For the past five years, Louie Palu has focused his photography on a long-term project on the war in Afghanistan. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *TIME*, and *Newsweek*. His work has been featured in festivals and exhibitions nationally and internationally, among them the New York Photo Festival, Centrum for Fotografi in Stockholm, Ping Yao International Photography Festival in China, and the Prix de la Photographie Paris. The Portland Art Museum in Oregon, the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY, and The Museum of Fine Arts Houston have included his work in their permanent collections. He has received numerous awards for his photographs including The Hearst Photography Biennial award, Hasselblad Master Award, and the 2010 Alexia Foundation Photography Grant. Additionally, he was a semifinalist for the 2009 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize.

Mark Parascandola (Washington, D.C.)

Mark Parascandola is a photographer based in Washington, D.C. A doctor of epidemiology by training, he uses photography to explore patterns of movement in human populations, focusing on architecture as evidence of often-invisible social, environmental, and economic processes. Parascandola has family roots in the desert landscape of Almeria, Spain, and he is currently documenting the remains of old movie sets constructed in the region during the 1960s and 1970s. His work has been featured in galleries in the Washington, D.C. area including DC Loft, Nevin Kelly Gallery, and the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts in Rockville, and is among the collection of the DC Art Bank. He is an active member of both the Washington Project for the Arts, as well as Mid City Artists collective.

Matthew Porterfield (Baltimore, MD)

Matt Porterfield studied film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and currently teaches screenwriting, film theory, and production at The Johns Hopkins University. His first feature, *HAMILTON*, which he wrote, directed and edited on 16mm film, was released in 2006. *METAL GODS*, his second feature script, won the Panasonic Digital Filmmaking Grand Prize at IFF's 30th Annual Independent Film Week in 2008. His latest film, *PUTTY HILL*, premiered at the Berlinale's International Forum of New Cinema in 2010 and was released

by Cinema Guild in 2011. His films and videos have been screened in several venues and film festivals including AFI, The Wexner Center, Centre Pompidou, the Swedish Film Institute, the George Eastman House, Viennale, Edinburgh, and SXSW. Locally, Porterfield's photographs have been shown at The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore's Current Gallery, and Gallery 229. He has been awarded a media grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and was a Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize finalist in 2010.

Rachel Rotenberg (Baltimore, MD)

Growing up in Toronto, Canada, Rachel Rotenberg began making artwork very early in life. Focusing almost exclusively on sculpture, she received her bachelor of fine arts from York University in 1981. Shortly thereafter, she relocated to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and settled on wood as her primary medium. Ever since, she has continuously created abstract wooden sculptures while raising five children. In 1994, she moved to Baltimore and has actively exhibited her work in many area galleries, including the Greater Reston Arts Center in Reston, VA, Baltimore's Creative Alliance at the Patterson, Sub-Basement Galleries in Baltimore, the Bodzin Art Gallery in Northern Virginia, and the Decker Gallery at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She was a recipient of a 2009 Creative Baltimore Individual Artist Award and was a 2010 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize semifinalist.

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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