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THE BMA PRESENTS THE JANET & WALTER SONDHEIM ARTSCAPE PRIZE: 2009 FINALISTS EXHIBITION

BALTIMORE, MD (June 1, 2009) — The Baltimore Museum of Art presents an exhibition of the six finalists for the \$25,000 Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize from June 20–August 16, 2009. This is the fourth year of the prestigious annual award, organized by Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. The six finalists are **Baltimore Development Cooperative (BDC), Leslie Furlong, Ryan Hackett, Jessie Lehson, Molly Springfield** and **Karen Yasinsky**.

The winner of the \$25,000 prize will be selected by a panel of three jurors and announced during an award ceremony on Saturday, July, 11 at 7pm at The Baltimore Museum of Art, located at 10 Art Museum Drive. This year's jurors are Ellen Harvey, a New York-based artist; Valerie Cassel Oliver, Curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and Elisabeth Sussman, Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. The award is named after the late Baltimore civic leader Walter Sondheim and his late wife, Janet. An exhibition of works by the semi-finalists will be on view July 17–August 2, 2009, at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, returns July 17 through 19 with more than 150 artists and craftspeople from across the country; as well as visual art exhibitions, live concerts, and children's entertainment. For more information, visit www.artscape.org.

The exhibition is presented by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts in partnership with The Baltimore Museum of Art. Generously supported by Amy and Chuck Newhall and an anonymous donor. The 2009 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize is made possible in part by grants from The Abell Foundation, Alex. Brown Charitable Foundation, Charlesmead Foundation, Ellie Dankert, France-Merrick Foundation, Hecht-Levi Foundation, Legg Mason, Chuck and Amy Newhall, The Henry & Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation, Under Armour Baltimore Marathon/Corrigan Sports Enterprises, and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.

JANET & WALTER SONDHEIM ARTSCAPE PRIZE 2009 FINALISTS

The **Baltimore Development Cooperative (BDC)** is an artist group with an interdisciplinary practice that uses the strategies of art, research, and activism to critically engage with urban spatial politics. Co-founded in 2005, the group has produced tours, exhibitions, workshops, and site-specific projects in public spaces. The BDC is dedicated to the analysis of neo-liberal urbanism and the invention of alternatives based on social, economic, and ecological justice in the city. The core members of BDC are Scott Berzofsky, Dane Nester, and Nicholas Wisniewski.

Leslie Furlong is a photographer and video artist from Baltimore. She received a BA in photography from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her MFA in Photography and Digital Imaging from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Much of her work explores our ever-transforming landscape: how we experience it and in turn how that experience shapes our direct relationship to that landscape. Her work has been exhibited at the Bridge Art Fair Miami and The Berliner Liste, and locally at C. Grimaldis Gallery, Maryland Art Place, and The Contemporary Museum.

Ryan Hackett received his BA in studio art from the University of Maryland, College Park, and his MFA from San Francisco Art Institute. He co-founded the Washington D.C.-based artist collective Decatur Blue. Hackett was recently included in a sound collaboration for the exhibition "*This Case of Conscience*" *Spiritual Flushing and the Remonstrance* at the Queens Museum of Art in New York and in a solo exhibition titled *Interspecies Transmission* at G Fine Art in Washington, D.C. Hackett lives and works in Kensington, Maryland.

Jessie Lehson received a MFA from the Rinehart School of Sculpture and her BA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Recent one- and two- person shows have been presented at Greater Reston Art Center, Reston, VA; Oxford Occasional, Philadelphia, PA; and Fox3 Gallery, Baltimore, MD. Her work has been featured in group shows at DUMBO Art Center, Brooklyn, NY, and McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA, as well as in an outdoor exhibition of modern prefab architecture, high design, low waste innovations for the urban environment at Minima Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

Molly Springfield's highly detailed drawings of texts and installations based on historical texts have been shown at the Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA; the Creative Alliance and School 33 Art Center, Baltimore; Mireille Mosler, Ltd., New York; Steven Wolf Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA; and Thomas Robertello Gallery, Chicago, IL. She is a 2004 MFA Graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. She was a 2007 semi-finalist for the Sondheim Prize and currently lives and works in Washington, D.C.

Karen Yasinsky's videos and drawings have been shown at MoMA, NY; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; and UCLA Hammer Museum, L.A.; as well as at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and the New York Underground Film Festival. Yasinsky works with Mireille Mosler, Ltd., NY, and Tanja Pol Galerie, Munich, and teaches Film and Media Studies at The Johns Hopkins University. She is a founding board member of the Gunk Foundation, a private foundation for public art. Yasinsky was also a finalist for the Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize in 2007.