

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALTIMORE ARTIST TONY SHORE WINS \$25,000 SONDHEIM ARTSCAPE PRIZE

BALTIMORE, MD (July 13, 2007) —Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts are proud to announce that **Tony Shore** is the winner of the **2007 Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize**. The coveted \$25,000 prize was presented at this evening's awards ceremony at The Baltimore Museum of Art. Works of art by the prizewinner and six other finalists are on view at the BMA until August 5.

"Baltimore City is a creative city filled with talented, imaginative artists," said Mayor Dixon. "The seven finalists not only made a great contribution to Artscape and this exhibition, but their hard work, vision, and commitment has made a tremendous impact on the arts in greater Baltimore by helping to make the City more vibrant and culturally progressive."

Shore remarked, "This award is an amazing thing for Baltimore. It not only helps attract artists to the City, but also helps keep artists who want to stay here. This prize will ensure that I am a part of Baltimore's cultural community for a long time."

A native Baltimorean who graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts and the Maryland Institute College of Art, Shore has had several solo exhibitions of his large paintings on dark velvet at C. Grimaldis Gallery in Baltimore, as well as at the Gomez Gallery in Baltimore, David Beitzel Gallery in New York, Delaware Art Museum, and Contemporary Arts Collective Gallery in Las Vegas. He received the Bethesda Painting Prize in 2006 as well as several Maryland State Arts Council Grants. Shore completed a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 1996, and received his Masters of Fine Arts from Yale University in 1997. He is currently on the faculty of the Foundations Department at the Maryland Institute College of Art and founding Director of Access Art, a youth art center in Baltimore's Morrell Park neighborhood.

FINALISTS EXHIBITION

The Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize Finalists: Artscape at the BMA exhibition includes works of art by all seven finalists for this year's prize —Richard Cleaver, Frank Hallam Day, Eric Dyer, Geoff Grace, Baby Martinez, Tony Shore, and Karen Yasinsky. They were selected from more than 320 applications by an independent panel of jurors: Derrick Adams, New York-based artist; Becky Smith, Owner & Director of Bellwether Gallery in New York; and Robert Storr, Commissioner of the 2007 Venice Biennale, Curator and Dean of the Yale University School of Art. The BMA's exhibition is curated by Jay Fisher, BMA Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator for Prints, Drawings & Photographs. Another exhibition of semifinalists will take place at the Maryland Institute College of Art's Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries opening during Artscape weekend on July 20 and continuing through August 2.

The program is made possible in part by grants from the France-Merrick Foundation, The Rouse Company Foundation, Amy Newhall, and Rosemore, Inc.

The Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize Finalists: Artscape at the BMA exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from The William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund.

JANET & WALTER SONDHEIM

The Artscape prize is named in honor of Janet and Walter Sondheim, who were instrumental in creating the Baltimore City that exists today. Walter Sondheim, Jr. was one of Baltimore's most important civic leaders for over 50 years. His accomplishments included oversight of the desegregation of the Baltimore City Public Schools in 1954, and championing the development of Charles Center and the Inner Harbor. He was active in civic and educational activities in the city and state, and served as senior advisor to the Greater Baltimore Committee until his death in February 2007.

Janet Sondheim danced with the pioneering Denishawn Dancers, a legendary dance troupe founded by Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn. Later, she turned to teaching and she spent 15 years at the Children's Guild working with severely emotionally disturbed children. After retirement, she was a volunteer tutor at Highlandtown Elementary School. She married Walter in 1934, and they were together until her death in 1992.

ARTSCAPE

Artscape returns July 20-22 with more than 150 artists, craftspeople, and fashion designers from across the country; visual art exhibits both on and off site; live concerts on four outdoor stages; performing arts including dance, opera, theater, fashion, film, and classical music, hands-on projects, and children's entertainers; three street theater locations; and a delicious international menu of food and beverages. Artscape is presented by Mayor Sheila Dixon and produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.

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 Matisse in the world. The Museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed by the great American architect John Russell Pope and a scenic three-acre sculpture garden that is an oasis in the City. As a major cultural destination for the greater Baltimore region, the BMA welcomes more than 250,000 visitors annually with an exciting program of dynamic, critically acclaimed exhibitions; lively concerts, lectures, and performances; and imaginative activities for families. Thanks to extraordinary government and private support, general admission to the BMA is free for everyone, every day, so that great art is accessible to all.

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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