

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HIGH TO PRESENT DRAWINGS AND SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION
BY ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ARTIST JIM WATERS**

“Splendor: The Work of Jim Waters”

Feb. 8, 2014 – June 8, 2014

ATLANTA, Jan. 6, 2014 –This spring, the High Museum of Art will present an exhibition featuring works on paper and a site-specific installation by Jim Waters, an artist who has lived and worked in Atlanta for more than two decades.

“Splendor: The Work of Jim Waters,” on view from Feb. 8 through June 8, 2014, will feature a selection of recent drawings by Waters (created 2008-12) that are based on a vocabulary of materials and forms that Waters has developed over the course of his career. From the simple geometries of typographically inspired shapes to complex organic structures, Waters’ lexicon suggests a symbiotic relationship between the natural and artificial worlds. For example, the graphic shape of a five-point star in one of Waters’ drawings becomes a cosmic pinwheel galaxy in another. Round polka dots become splotchy ringlets of microscopic cells in other works.

Waters often uses materials with reflective properties such as glitter and holographic vinyl to underscore his interest in the science of vision, as well as color theory and light. Colors change in the drawings in relationship to the shifting of one’s stance or position, creating a dynamic sense of movement.

In addition to the works on paper featured in the exhibition, Waters will create a site-specific installation for the exhibition that will expand upon the ideas explored in his drawings.

“Jim has been an important presence in the Atlanta art scene for several decades, which is evident by the ubiquity of his work in private collections throughout the city,” said Michael Rooks, Wieland Family curator of modern and contemporary art at the High. “I’ve had the pleasure to work with Jim over the past three years through his role as the Museum’s exhibitions designer, so I’ve seen firsthand his exceptional talent utilizing composition, color and light. With this exhibition, I wanted to get at some key concerns that Jim addresses in his work – light, movement, and the relationship between the natural and artificial – while presenting it in the context of our contemporary galleries.”

Waters’ works have been featured in other solo shows at Atlanta’s Kiang Gallery and Sandler Hudson Gallery. His works has also been shown at Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum and are included in the permanent collections of the High Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA) and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

About Jim Waters

Jim Waters was born in 1948 in Athens, Tenn. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla. and his Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and sculpture from The University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss. Waters joined the High Museum of Art as exhibition specialist/preparator in 1987 and currently serves as senior exhibition designer for the Museum, where he is responsible for the design and implementation of design components for all permanent and special exhibition projects. As a practicing artist, Waters maintains a studio and actively exhibits his work in Atlanta. His artworks have been also been featured in group and solo exhibitions both regionally and nationally and are included in private, public and Museum collections. From 1990 to 1996, Waters served on the Board of Directors for the Nexus Contemporary Art Center (Atlanta Contemporary Art Center).

High Museum of Art

The High is the leading art museum in the southeastern U.S. With more than 13,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists. This year, the High celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Stent Family Wing, designed by architect Richard Meier. For more information about the High, visit high.org.

The Woodruff Arts Center

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opened in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center, please visit www.woodruffcenter.org.

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