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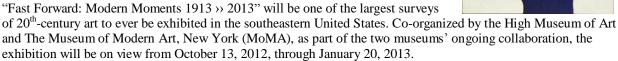
# HIGH MUSEUM OF ART EXAMINES PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ART THROUGH NEW EXHIBITION "FAST FORWARD: MODERN MOMENTS 1913 » 2013"

Exhibition Includes Commission by Sarah Sze and New Work by Aaron Curry Oct. 13, 2012–Jan. 20, 2013

**ATLANTA**, **May 8**, **2012** – The High Museum of Art will explore the development of modern and contemporary art by selecting key years in art history that represent watershed moments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the upcoming exhibition "Fast Forward: Modern Moments 1913 » 2013"

The exhibition will present approximately 100 works of art created during the years 1913, 1929, 1950, 1961, and 1988, as well as the art of today. The exhibition will examine the years prior to the start of World War I and the Great Depression, the lead-up to postwar American prosperity and the years preceding the Cuban Missile Crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall and how artists responded to and were influenced by events on the world stage.

The exhibition will also present the works of contemporary artists Aaron Curry, Katharina Grosse, and Sarah Sze, whose work extends themes first explored in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and updates them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



"These periods of time ushered in new ways of thinking that forever transformed the artistic landscapes," said Michael E. Shapiro, the High's Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr., Director. "We're delighted that this partnership with MoMA will enable our visitors to see how the work of artists from different eras was influenced by major historical events."

The exhibition will include iconic works from each represented year, including:

- 1913: Umberto Boccioni's Futurist sculpture "Unique Forms of Continuity in Space"
- 1929: Salvador Dalí's Surrealist painting "Illumined Pleasures"
- 1950: Willem de Kooning's landmark of Abstract Expressionism, "Woman, I"
- 1961: Roy Lichtenstein's Pop art masterpiece "Girl With Ball"
- 1988: Jeff Koons's famed porcelain sculpture "Pink Panther"



Michael Rooks, the High's Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, has chosen Aaron Curry, Katharina Grosse and Sarah Sze to highlight the art of 2013. Sarah Sze, who will represent the United States in the 2013 Venice Biennale, will create a site-specific installation for the High. Aaron Curry will debut three new works—monumental, polychromed steel sculptures titled "Boo," "Thing" and "Deadhead"—which will be installed on the Museum's lawn. Rounding out the selection, a large three-dimensional painting by Katharina Grosse will be on display on the skyway level of the Wieland Pavilion.

"Aaron Curry, Katharina Grosse, and Sarah Sze are artists who push the boundaries of artistic practice," said Rooks. "Each is known for their conceptually open-ended and physically immersive works that invite viewers to walk through and around them. In the process of physically exploring these works, viewers draw out the present moment, stretching time toward moments yet to come."

"Fast Forward: Modern Moments 1913 » 2013" continues a multi-year, multi-exhibition collaboration between the High and MoMA, which began in 2009 with "Monet Water Lilies," the first in a series of six exhibitions, followed by "Modern by Design" in summer 2011 and "Picasso to Warhol: Fourteen Modern Masters," which is currently on view through April 29, 2012. The initiative builds on successful past collaborations between the High and MoMA that resulted in four exhibitions presented in Atlanta between 1997 and 2000. This project will extend ties between the institutions through professional exchanges, development of educational programs and publications and reciprocal admission benefits.

#### Aaron Curry (born 1972), on view May 22, 2012–May 2013

Originally trained as a painter, Aaron Curry turned to sculpture while he was an undergraduate at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he first became interested in the flat planes that characterized the work of David Smith and Isamu Noguchi. Curry's interplay between two and three dimensions encourages viewers to walk around his work, creating new lines of sight as planes of color rotate into nothingness. In his own words, his sculptures are "almost like a cubist painting . . . [they] refer to the surface but give you illusion at the same time. It's an awkward space that I still find rather exciting to play with." Since earning his M.F.A. from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, he has exhibited in dozens of group shows throughout the United States and Europe as well as solo shows in Los Angeles, Berlin, London and New York. In 2010 Curry received a fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin, an experience that culminated in an exhibition at the Schinkel Pavilion in early 2011. His work has been praised by critics Holland Cotter and Roberta Smith, the latter of whom proclaimed Curry's work to be "physically inventive and sculpturally inclined."

### Katharina Grosse (born 1961), on view October 4, 2012 – January 20, 2013

The Berlin-based artist Katharina Grosse's distinctive approach to painting and installation is characterized by the simultaneous expansion and elimination of boundaries for painting, "Abstract Expressionism opened up new ways to look at painting, but it also hindered, to a certain extent, painting's development. Negating painting's illusionism narrowed it down to applying paint to a flat surface. I have a totally different approach. I don't think that a painting is a coherent, closed system that only takes place within its borders." Her works challenge traditional notions of painting and architectural space and invite viewers to confront their spatial boundaries. Grosse resists identification with specific media, historical movements or other affiliations, preferring instead to remain as uninhibited as possible. Since 1996 she has exhibited in more than 30 solo shows and several dozen group shows in galleries and museums across the world, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, the Tate St. Ives in England and the Museum for New Art in Freiburg, Germany. In 2011 she installed her monumental installation "One Floor up More Highly" at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, which received critical praise, including the article, "Chromatic Theater," published in Art in America. In addition to her artistic practice, she is currently a professor of fine arts at the Arts Academy of Dusseldorf.

#### Sarah Sze (born 1969), on view October 4, 2012 – January 20, 2013

Educated at Yale University and the School of Visual Arts, New York, Sarah Sze has emerged as one of the foremost installation artists of her generation. Best known for her elaborate and gravity-defying installations—microcosmic spaces of dizzying complexity—her work often seems to be a three-dimensional collage in which the placement of every object holds meaning both outside the work and within it. Her coupling of familiar objects—

towels, chairs, ladders, for exmaple—with ones that are less immediately identifiable provokes the viewer to create rich associations between otherwise unrelated items. Over the last fifteen years, she has shown in group exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale, and at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Monographic exhibitions of her work have been organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Whitney; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, among others. Her permanent installations are on display at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkley. Sze has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Atelier Calder prize and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and most recently she has been selected to represent the United States at the 2013 Venice Biennale. She lives and works in New York City.

#### **Exhibition Organization and Support**

"Fast Forward: Modern Moments 1913 >> 2013" is part of a series of exhibitions presented as part of a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. It is organized by Jodi Hauptman, MoMA Curator of Drawings, and Samantha Friedman, MoMA Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Drawings, in collaboration with David Brenneman, the High's Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Frances B. Bunzl Family Curator of European Art, and Michael Rooks, the High's Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. "Fast Forward: Modern Moments 1913 » 2013" will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. The exhibitions and programs of the MoMA Series are made possible by Presenting Sponsor Bank of America, Lead Sponsors Portman, The Gary W. and Ruth M. Rollins Foundation, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Accenture and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.; and Planning Partner The Rich Foundation. The Modern Masters Circle: Margaretta Taylor, Sue and John Wieland. Additional support provided by Carey and Doug Benham, Dr. Robert L. and Lucinda W. Bunnen, Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe T. Green, Jr., Louise Sams and Jerome Grilhot, Paul Hagedorn, Jane and Clay Jackson, Sarah and Jim Kennedy, Barbara and Sanford Orkin, Catherine N. Rawson, Sara and John Shlesinger, Joan Whitcomb, Tull Charitable Foundation, Jane Smith Turner Foundation, Vasser Woollev Foundation, Corporate Environments and the Wish Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Support is also provided by the Alfred and Adele Davis Exhibition Endowment Fund, the Dorothy Smith Hopkins Exhibition Endowment Fund, Estate of Barbara Dunbar Stewart, Estate of Virginia Cook Wood and an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

#### **High Museum of Art**

Founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, the High Museum of Art is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. With more than 12,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum has an extensive anthology of 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Museum of Art is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High's media arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005 the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum's size, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in midtown Atlanta. For more information about the High visit www.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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Image credit: Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923–1997), "Girl with Ball," 1961, oil and synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 60¼ x 36¼ inches (153 x 91.9 cm), The Museum of Modern Art, New York, gift of Philip Johnson, 421.1981

## DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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