

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HIGH MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT
“THE FORTY PART MOTET” BY JANET CARDIFF**

Masterwork sound installation from MoMA collection on view in fall 2014

ATLANTA, April 10, 2014 – Sound artist Janet Cardiff’s critically acclaimed installation “The Forty Part Motet” will travel to the High Museum of Art in fall 2014. From the collection of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the piece will be on view at the High from Oct. 11, 2014 through Jan. 18, 2015.

Described as “achingly beautiful” (*The New Yorker*) and “transcendent” (*The New York Times*), Cardiff’s “The Forty Part Motet” is a reworking of a 40-part choral piece by Tudor composer Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505-1585).

The installation features the voices of 59 singers (adults and children) performing Tallis’ “Spem in Alium Nunquam Habui” (1556), which translates to “In No Other is My Hope” and is perhaps Tallis’ most famous composition. Each voice was recorded separately, and all voices are played back in unison for the final piece via 40 individual loudspeakers on tripods (one speaker for each choral part). The audio component is a 14-minute loop – 11 minutes of singing and three minutes of intermission.

Cardiff configures the speakers in a large oval, with eight groups of five speakers arranged together (one group each for soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass). As visitors wander among them and progress through the work, they hear each distinct voice and also experience different combinations and harmonies. A visitor can stand in the middle of the installation and hear all of the voices as they unify into one musical piece or move close to an individual loudspeaker for an intimate experience with a single voice.

“In Cardiff’s spellbinding work, music is a vehicle for the synthesis of time and place,” said Michael Rooks, Wieland Family curator of modern and contemporary art at the High. “It is about being present, connecting with the performers as they prepare and then sharing in the transcendent experience of their voices in song.”

Most recently shown by The Metropolitan Museum of Art in The Cloisters’ Fuentidueña Chapel in New York City, the piece was created in 2001 by Cardiff, a renowned sound artist who has exhibited extensively around the world. Born in Canada in 1957, Cardiff lives in Berlin and works in collaboration with her husband and partner George Bures Miller. Her works are included in major public and private collections in the United States and abroad, and she represented Canada in the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001.

The installation will be on view concurrently with “‘Make a Joyful Noise’: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral,” an exhibition that explores the relationship between the visual and performing arts and features three marble panels from Italian sculptor Luca della Robbia’s famed

organ loft. The organ in Luca's loft accompanied chants and motets, much like the one that is featured in Cardiff's piece.

“We are delighted that our patrons will have the opportunity to experience this work, which has deeply touched audiences around the world,” said Michael E. Shapiro, Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr. director of the High. “Presenting this installation and having the chance to provide context for its mesmerizing music through other masterpiece works on view at the Museum is really a special opportunity for the High. It is the kind of enriching, multisensory experience we strive to create for our visitors.”

The installation will be located in the Modern and Contemporary Art galleries on the Skyway Level of the High's Wieland Pavilion.

Exhibition Organization and Support

This exhibition is part of the MoMA Series, a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art, New York and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta.

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The High Museum of Art

The High is the leading art museum in the Southeastern U.S. With more than 14,000 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, folk art and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists. 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, visit www.woodruffcenter.org.

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