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**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, AWARDS 2013 MAUD MORGAN PRIZE
TO ARTIST SARAH BRAMAN**



Sarah Braman

BOSTON, MA (January 10, 2013)—The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), announced today that Amherst artist Sarah Braman is the recipient of the 2013 Maud Morgan Prize. Braman’s art transforms humble artifacts of life in the home and on the road—used furniture, car hoods, even a camper—with rich colors of sprayed paint or planes of cut Plexiglas that abstract the experience of the domestic haven or open road with transcendent, transporting hues.

Evocatively titling her works, Braman is passionate that her engaging abstractions are always “about something ... beyond confines of language.” The MFA’s Maud Morgan Prize honors a Massachusetts woman artist who has demonstrated creativity and vision, and who has made significant contributions to the contemporary arts landscape. The Prize was established in 1993

in recognition of the spirit of adventure and independence embodied by noted New England artist Maud Morgan (1903–1999). Braman will receive a \$10,000 award and her work will be presented in the MFA’s Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art in November 2013.

“We are pleased to honor Sarah Braman’s achievements with the Maud Morgan Prize,” said Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the MFA. “Braman’s complex and poetic works speak powerfully to the spirit of the Prize, which celebrates the vision and thriving creativity of women artists residing in Massachusetts.”

Born in 1970, Braman grew up in Ashfield, Massachusetts, where she developed an early interest in art. She later enrolled in a summer program for high school students at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) during her junior year. She resides in Amherst, but also spends time in New York City, where she is a founder and co-director of the artist-run gallery CANADA, which opened in 2000. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries in the United States and Europe, including solo exhibitions at MACRO, Rome, Italy; International Art Objects, Los Angeles; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; Le Confort Moderne, Paris, France; and the Armory Fair, New York, as well as group exhibitions including the 2010 Lisbon Biennial, the De la Cruz Collection in Miami, and the Zabłudowicz Collection Inaugural Installation in Sarvisalo, Finland. She received a BFA from

Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore in 1992 and an MFA from Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia and Rome in 1998. She will be part of the exhibition "Paint Things; Beyond the Stretcher" at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, opening January 27.

"It is with much gratitude that I accept the Maud Morgan Prize," said Braman. "I am thrilled to be acknowledged by the MFA, where my passion for art was stoked as a teenager. An invitation to show in the Museum is an honor and one that is very personal for me. What a thrill to imagine that high school students coming to the MFA for the first time might encounter a sculpture of mine!"

Known especially for her sculptures, which combine used items with jewel-toned spray paint or translucent boxes upended at light-catching angles, Braman breathes new life into found materials. She has incorporated objects as diverse as a dirty desk, spray painted foam rubber, the roof of a truck, wooden doors, and a chrome vanity with highly formal, minimal, and clean elements like cast steel and brightly colored Plexiglas. The resulting works are carefully balanced compositions that bring a sense of discovery via disorientation as you move around their complex structures, at once delicate and powerful.

In the 2011 solo exhibition "Yours" at Mitchell-Innes & Nash in New York, Braman introduced a disassembled travel camper into her work. Once an innovative and omnipresent vehicle on American roads, the camper has fallen by the wayside in recent years. Braman fused the camper's well-worn kitchen and bathroom, among other spaces, with Plexiglas, wood and metal, creating large-scale sculptures that evoke by-gone optimism or innocence in the pursuit of life on the road. The painterly addition of sprayed or brushed color to Braman's works prompt the viewer to move around the structures in space, following the intuitive trace of the artist's hand.

MAUD MORGAN PRIZE

Established at the Museum in 1993, the Maud Morgan Prize honors the recipient with a cash award and an MFA presentation of her work. The \$10,000 prize is given biennially to a Massachusetts woman who has worked as an artist for at least 10 years, and who has demonstrated creativity and vision, and who has made significant contributions to the contemporary arts landscape. In addition to recommendations by MFA curators, nominations were solicited from a broad cross-section of contemporary curators from throughout the state resulting in a total of 42 nominees. After submissions were reviewed, finalists were chosen by a committee of MFA curators, and visits were made to the artists' studios. Committee members selected Sarah Braman, a decision endorsed by MFA Director Malcolm Rogers. The committee included Edward Saywell, Chair of the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art and Arthur K. Solomon Curator of Modern Art; Jen Mergel, Robert L. Beal, Enid L. Beal and Bruce A. Beal Senior Curator of Contemporary Art; Emily Zilber, Ronald L. and Anita Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts; Al Miner, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art; Liz Munsell, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art and MFA Programs; Jacki Elgar, Head of Asian Conservation and Head of International Projects, Asia; and Michelle Finamore, Curator of Fashion Arts. Previous winners of the Maud Morgan Prize are Wendy Jacob, Ambreen Butt, Shelley Reed, Jill Weber, Raneé Palone Flynn,

Suara Welitoff, Laura Chasman, Shellburne Thurber, Catherine McCarthy, Kendra Ferguson, Elsbeth Deser, Bonnie Porter, Natalie Alper, and Jo Ann Rothschild.

MAUD MORGAN—Background

During her most active years as an artist and instructor in Massachusetts, Maud Morgan represented a voice of recognition for women committed to a career in the arts. She was associated with some of the most distinguished artists of the 1930s and studied at the Art Students League in New York with Hans Hoffman. Morgan exhibited with the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York in the company of Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko before instructing students of studio art, including Frank Stella and Carl Andre with her then-husband, painter Patrick Morgan, at Abbot Academy and Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. At the age of 92, she published her autobiography, *Maud's Journey: A Life from Art*. Throughout her career, Morgan was a source of inspiration for many artists, both young and old.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), is recognized for the quality and scope of its encyclopedic collection, which includes an estimated 450,000 objects. The Museum's collection is made up of: Art of the Americas; Art of Europe; Contemporary Art; Art of Asia, Oceania, and Africa; Art of the Ancient World; Prints, Drawings, and Photographs; Textile and Fashion Arts; and Musical Instruments. Open seven days a week, the MFA's hours are Saturday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.; and Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. Admission (which includes one repeat visit within 10 days) is \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors and students age 18 and older, and includes entry to all galleries and special exhibitions. Admission is free for University Members and youths age 17 and younger on weekdays after 3 p.m., weekends, and Boston Public Schools holidays; otherwise \$10. Wednesday nights after 4 p.m. admission is by voluntary contribution (suggested donation \$25). MFA Members are always admitted for free. The MFA's multi-media guide is available at ticket desks and the Sharf Visitor Center for \$5, members; \$6, non-members; and \$4, youths. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Patriots' Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For more information, visit www.mfa.org or call 617.267.9300. The MFA is located on the Avenue of the Arts at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

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