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BMA PRESENTS NEW ARRIVALS: JOACHIM KOESTER

Contemporary Wing features three stellar exhibitions of film and photography

BALTIMORE, MD (October 27, 2015)—*New Arrivals: Joachim Koester* at The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) explores the power of photography to document otherwise lost moments. On view October 28, 2015 through March 6, 2016, the exhibition features Danish artist Joachim Koester's 3-minute, 16mm film inspired by a tragic 1897 hot air balloon expedition across the North Pole and two large-scale lithographs that appear to advertise the voyage.

For the film, *Message from Andrée*, Koester photographed the negatives an expedition photographer took of researcher Solomon August Andrée and his team during their fatal three-month struggle following the crash of their balloon. Filled with black stains, scratches, and streaks of light, *Message from Andrée* not only reveals the forces of time and severe weather conditions that caused physical deterioration to the film, but also evokes the harsh demise of the tragically optimistic explorers. The work is a promised gift from Brooklyn-based collector and National Trustee Monroe Denton.

Joachim Koester (1962, Danish) lives and works in Copenhagen and Brooklyn, NY. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world, including projects at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013), the MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA (2012), and the Venice Biennial (2005). The exhibition is curated by Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman.

New Arrivals: Joachim Koester is a part of the series of exhibitions that celebrate the museum's enormously successful Campaign for Art. The campaign has secured more than 3,800 objects during the past decade in honor of the museum's 100th anniversary in 2014. Two outstanding New Arrivals exhibitions are currently on view in the Contemporary Wing: *New Arrivals: Photographs from the O'Neil Collection* and *New Arrivals: Late 20th-Century Photographs from Russia & Belarus*.

New Arrivals: Photographs from the O'Neil Collection, on view through March 27, 2016, features 18 color and black-and-white photographs that were part of a major gift from Baltimore collectors Tom and Nancy O'Neil, who have collected 20th- and 21st-century photography for more than two decades. Works by contemporary masters such as Dawoud Bey, Richard Misrach, and Abelardo Morell and new talents demonstrate the O'Neils' interest in images that speak to today's landscape and environmental issues, as well as portraits that offer sensitive studies of the human experience. The exhibition is curated by Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman.

In *New Arrivals: Late 20th-Century Photographs from Russia & Belarus*, on view through March 20, 2016, more than 20 photographs by Russian and Belarusian artists capture once-powerful symbols of the eroding Soviet State. These works came to the BMA from Brenda Edelson, who served as the museum's Program Director from 1973-85. Highlights of the exhibition include Sergey Kozhemyakin's *Transformation of the Image* (1990), a series of four gelatin silver prints that are scratched and darkened until the image—a statue of Lenin—is rendered unrecognizable and Boris Savelev's image of a woman sitting outside in a box-car like device that was hoisted up so she could paint the exterior walls of The State Hermitage Museum. The exhibition is curated by Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Rena Hoisington.

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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 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A \$28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, added a new education center, and improved visitor amenities and infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 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 at 10 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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