THE BMA PRESENTS NEWLY ACQUIRED PRINTS EMPLOYING POP CULTURE IMAGERY

BALTIMORE, MD (August 7, 2014)—Twenty-six narrative prints, many set in fictional worlds, are on view for the first time at the Baltimore Museum of Art in On Paper: Alternate Realities. The exhibition, open September 21, 2014-April 12, 2015, brings together American artists from across the country who have playfully exaggerated and reimaged the visual language of popular culture. The works consider larger societal issues while exploring myths, folklore, religious stories, and fairy tales.

Among the prints featured are two complete portfolios by Raymond Pettibon and Trenton Doyle Hancock, as well as newly acquired works by Wangeci Mutu, Amy Cutler, Chitra Ganesh, Toshio Sasaki, Iona Rozeal Brown, and William Villalongo. At the center of the exhibition is an eight-panel, accordion bound work titled El Regreso del Caníbal Macrobiótico (The Return of the Macrobiotic Cannibal) (1998) by Enrique Chagoya. The colorful combination of woodcut, color lithograph, and chine-collé printing juxtaposes images of American comic book characters, Catholic iconography, medical illustrations, Mayans in overcoats, and alien spaceships.

On Paper will be presented in the revitalized contemporary wing’s third-floor gallery dedicated to the presentation of the BMA’s renowned holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. This is the third exhibition from the Museum’s Thomas E. Benesch Memorial Collection, a group of more than 140 outstanding drawings by international contemporary artists.

Curated by Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Ann Shafer.

BMA CONTEMPORARY WING
The BMA’s renovated contemporary wing features more than 100 objects—including paintings, sculpture, photography, works on paper, and video—presented thematically in galleries improved with state-of-the art lighting and new interiors. The contemporary wing, which opened in 1994, houses a significant collection of American art from the last six decades with major late paintings by Andy Warhol, as well as works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Glenn Ligon, Bruce Nauman, and Anne Truitt. The museum also holds an outstanding group of works by influential international artists such as Olafur Eliasson, Thomas Hirschhorn, and Franz West, and artists whose work makes a profound social statement, including General Idea, Zoe Leonard, Josephine Meckseper, and Felix Gonzalez-Torres. Two new interactive galleries, The Big Table and Open Studio, encourage visitors to create, share, and connect with contemporary art, ideas, and artists. The first mobile art guide for the collection, BMA Go Mobile, includes fresh perspectives on more than 100 objects in the contemporary collection, as well as exclusive video and audio commentary by artists, curators, and others in Baltimore’s creative community.

MEDIA CONTACTS
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ABOUT THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Founded in 1914, the BMA is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Among its 90,000 objects is the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world; European and American fine and decorative arts and textiles; prints and drawings from the 15th-century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands; and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. Since 2006, the BMA has eliminated general admission fees so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (except major holidays). The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on 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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