



MEDIA CONTACTS

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THE BMA PRESENTS PROVOCATIVE 'VAMPIRE' SOFT SCULPTURES BY ACCLAIMED ARTIST STERLING RUBY

BALTIMORE, MD (February 20, 2014)—This spring the Baltimore Museum of Art presents a selection of soft sculptures created by Sterling Ruby, heralded by the *New York Times* as “one of the most interesting artists to emerge in this century.” On view in the Contemporary Wing **March 16 – June 15, 2014, Front Room: Sterling Ruby** features the artist’s large-scale, pillow-like forms that take the shape of vampires’ mouths with fabric fashioned into fangs and dangling drops of blood.

Ruby’s work often employs practices associated with therapy and craft and frequently addresses oppressive political, social, and artistic power structures. The 11 soft sculptures on view are covered in patriotic red, white, and blue—combining imagery associated with the United States with fragments of vampires, undead creatures that feed off the living. This visual metaphor suggests the artist’s critical outlook on the state of American culture and politics at the beginning of the 21st century.

“The imposing scale of his work—the largest more than 13 X 17 feet—combined with the disarming choice of a fabric medium and toy-like forms challenges the commanding authority of cultural symbols and public monuments,” says BMA Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman. Though seemingly inviting and celebratory at first glance, upon further inspection, the yards of red, white, and blue materialize as stitched symbols of insatiable hunger, overwhelming power, and potential violence.

Ruby, based in Los Angeles, was born in Germany, and raised in Baltimore and rural eastern Pennsylvania. The influential and prolific artist has exhibited internationally at prestigious institutions including The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture in Moscow, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, and La Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Bergamo, Italy. His work is also included in numerous public collections such as The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, The Art Gallery of Ontario, and Tate Collection in London.

Ruby received his bachelor’s degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He pursued his graduate studies at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA.

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ABOUT 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 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. The BMA has a long tradition of collecting the art of its time, beginning with the Cone sisters, whose avid acquisitions from living artists signaled the Museum's commitment to collecting contemporary art. Other outstanding collections include European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The Museum is located in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. The BMA's building encompasses 210,000 square feet and is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. Since 2006, the BMA has eliminated general admission fees so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

RENOVATION

The BMA's exciting multi-year [renovation](#) is underway. If you are visiting the BMA to see a specific work of art or collection, please call ahead to make sure it will be on view. In addition to renovating galleries, we continue to loan works and send traveling exhibitions from our outstanding collection to museums in the U.S. and abroad. Contact Visitor Services at 443-573-1701 during Museum hours for more information.

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, 11a.m.-6p.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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