

## CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS INSTALLATION BY RICHARD CLEAVER OPENS IN BMA'S SPRING HOUSE

**BALTIMORE** (February 18, 2005)—Dreams and memories intermingle in **Richard Cleaver: Gathering at the Latrobe Spring House**, an exhibition of more than 100 hand-built and painted ceramic figures by Baltimore-based artist Richard Cleaver. On display at The Baltimore Museum of Art from **February 23 through April 3, 2005**, this 9-foot-tall, altar-like installation in the BMA's Latrobe Spring House is the latest in the artist's ongoing series of works that includes speculation on the family life of slaves who lived on Oakland Farm, the original location of the Spring House during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

On display for six weeks as part of the Tour de Clay—a regional showcase of clay artists from around the world—visitors will have the opportunity to venture outside of the Museum to the circa 1812 Spring House (located on the west side of the Museum grounds) to view the installation, the first time art has been on display in this historic building in more than 60 years. Designed by renowned American architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the Greek revival Spring House was moved from Oakland Farm in north Baltimore—near artist Cleaver's current home and studio—to its current site on the west grounds of the BMA in 1932. It was restored in 2003 with support from the Richard C. von Hess Foundation. Admission to the Spring House is free.

The elaborate display features figures ranging in size from a few inches to 4 feet tall that represent characters from past and present, both real and mythological, who have been important to the artist during his life, including his grandmother in pink slippers and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Painstakingly painted and gold-leafed, the figures are surrounded by branches and vines threaded with semi-precious stones and freshwater pearls, and some have faces and torsos that open to reveal other figures.

The Spring House will be open during regular Museum hours. Museum admission is not required to visit the Spring House.

**Richard Cleaver: Gathering at the Latrobe Spring House** is curated by BMA Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Jay Fisher and the BMA's Sylvia Friedberg Nachlas Chair of Museum Education Linda Andre.

**This exhibition is generously supported by Roger M. Dalsheimer and an anonymous donor.**



Richard Cleaver. Detail, *Gathering*. 2004.  
Courtesy the artist.

## **RICHARD CLEAVER**

Richard Cleaver has been carving figures out of clay for more than 30 years. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a Master of Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. The artist has exhibited across the nation, including recent solo exhibitions at the Noyes Museum (NJ), Villa Julie College (Stevenson, MD), the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery (New York and Miami), and in group exhibitions at Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA), International Sculpture Center (Washington, DC) and the Erie Art Museum (PA). Additionally, Mr. Cleaver's work is displayed in public collections at The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC and the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington. Awards include the National Endowment for the Arts, Evergreen Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council and The Trawick Prize.

## **TOUR DE CLAY**

This six-week festival held February 19–April 3, features the best national and international ceramic art in 160 exhibitions throughout the greater Baltimore area. This unprecedented display is organized by Baltimore Clayworks in partnership with the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance and its member institutions. The Tour de Clay coincides with the ACC Craft Show (February 25–27) and the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Art (March 15–19, 2005), considered the largest annual arts conference in the world. For more information, visit [www.tourdeclay.com](http://www.tourdeclay.com).

## **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is Maryland's largest art museum with more than 90,000 objects. The Museum presents a variety of major exhibitions each year, as well as special installations that showcase the Museum's outstanding collection. The BMA's pre-eminent holding of Post-Impressionist and Modern art—The Cone Collection— includes a group of 500 works by Matisse, considered the most comprehensive collection in the world, as well as major examples by Picasso, Cézanne, and Gauguin. Highlights from the BMA's collection include world-renowned works of modern and contemporary art; grand European paintings and sculpture from 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> century; an extensive collection of prints, drawings, and photographs from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present; notable American paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, and Maryland period rooms; and African, Asian, Native American, and Oceanic art. The BMA's sculpture gardens feature 34 works of art on nearly three landscaped acres in the heart of the city.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.; and during the first Thursday of every month (except major holidays), 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors ages 65 and over and college students; and free for children 18 and under. Admission is free on the first Thursday of every month and for related Free First Thursday activities. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31<sup>st</sup> Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 410/396-7100 or visit the BMA's web site at [www.artbma.org](http://www.artbma.org).

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT BMA PUBLIC RELATIONS AT 410/396-6310**

Anne Mannix  
[amannix@artbma.org](mailto:amannix@artbma.org)

Amy Pelsinsky  
[apelsinsky@artbma.org](mailto:apelsinsky@artbma.org)

Sarah Pedroni  
[spedroni@artbma.org](mailto:spedroni@artbma.org)