

BMA COMPLETES RENOVATION WITH NEW CENTER FOR PEOPLE & ART OPENING OCTOBER 25 WITH *IMAGINING HOME* EXHIBITION

Innovative new experiences connect visitors with art, creativity, and community

BALTIMORE, MD (July 24, 2015)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) concludes its multi-year renovation with the opening of the Center for People & Art (CP&A) on October 25, 2015. This new area of the museum connects visitors with art, creativity, and community through an innovative thematic exhibition, *Imagining Home*; an art-making studio; and a variety of programs and partnerships with Baltimore artists and non-profit organizations.

“The Center for People & Art continues the BMA’s legacy of excellence and innovation in the presentation and interpretation of art,” said BMA Deputy Director for Education & Interpretation Anne Manning. “We are excited to share many new experiences and invite visitors to participate in the imaginative programs offered in conjunction with the opening and throughout the year.”

The \$4.5 million, 5,500-square-foot Center for People & Art (CP&A) includes a gallery that draws together works from across the collection around a theme, a commons that highlights the voices and creativity of the Baltimore community, and a studio for hands-on art making for all ages. The CP&A also encompasses a new docent room for the museum’s dedicated gallery teachers and a renovated school group entrance and orientation foyer, where docents welcome thousands of schoolchildren who visit the museum each year.

GALLERY

The CP&A Gallery opens with *Imagining Home*—an extraordinary exhibition that presents more than 30 artworks across the collection in a lively space that incorporates video, audio, and other interactive elements. The artworks represent different ideas and aspects about home—whether decorative or functional, real or ideal, celebratory or critical. Nearly every area of the BMA’s collection is included: paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, textiles, prints, and photographs with works from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as four of the museum’s popular miniature rooms. Each object reveals something about the social and cultural values, history, economics, and religious beliefs of their makers, owners, and users.



Visitors will discover three thematic areas in the exhibition:

- **Façades & Thresholds:** Transitional spaces such as doors, windows, and porches convey the history of a dwelling as well as the identity and values of its makers and occupants. Emile-Antoine Bourdelle’s sinister bronze *Medusa Door Knocker* (1925), a colorful early 20th-century *Suzani* prayer rug from Central Asia, and Ben Marcin’s *Last One Standing* photograph of a row home show how we mediate the public and private through objects.
- **Domestic Interiors:** Works made for or featuring domestic settings invite visitors to consider how we “make home.” Paintings like Marguerite Gerard’s *Motherhood* (c. 1795) and a selection of chairs, vessels, and other objects from an ancient Greek krater to a modern toaster reflect the identities and activities of their owners.
- **Arrivals & Departures:** Contemporary and historic objects show a world of constant transformation and movement. Examples include Alfred Stieglitz’s *Steerage* (1907) photograph of passengers boarding a ship and Susan Harbage Page’s *Hiding Place No. 3, Laredo, Texas* (2011), a large-scale photograph of a temporary shelter for someone crossing the U.S./Mexican border.

A variety of interactive elements are woven throughout the exhibition. As you enter the gallery, floor projections show visitors' responses to the prompt "**Home is...**" These statements change as new visitor responses are received. Four artworks have **Home Stories** videos that reveal an individual or family's experience living with a reproduction of the object for a month. The interviews explore what they discovered about the work of art and how it impacted their thinking about home. Another group of artworks has **Soundscapes** that immerse visitors in the place where the object was made through authentic audio recordings. The BMA's **Go Mobile** smartphone guide has been expanded with insightful details about many of the artworks in the exhibition. Friendly **Gallery Hosts** will be standing by during weekends and special events to provide information about the objects and experiences upon request. There is also a nook with seating, books, and magazines for visitors to relax and peruse.

COMMONS

This space will reflect the voices and creativity of Baltimore. Baltimore-based mixed-media artist Marian April Glebes, in partnership with the non-profit The Loading Dock, was selected for a year-long Commons Collaboration project inspired by the theme of home that will be presented in the Commons and at The Loading Dock. Seeing the BMA as a metaphoric house for Baltimore's greatest cultural assets, Glebes anticipates creating an interactive environment where visitors can explore relationships with the materials of home and connect them to the larger notion of place. The Commons will also host **Open Hours** on the third Saturday of the month beginning in November. These events are organized by anyone who wants to propose an activity connected to the theme of home that promotes a sense of sharing and exchange. Additionally, visitors are invited to write on a postcard to be sent to another visitor and submit their mailing address to receive a postcard from someone else.

STUDIO

This vibrant space for hands-on experiences evokes a contemporary artist's studio and encourages invention and artistic expression for visitors of all ages. The BMA's popular **Free Family Sundays** program will continue here with a month of workshops on the theme of home. Workshop topics may include constructing a dream home, miniature furniture building, welcome mat braiding, fort building, and album making.

OPENING EVENTS

October 25 – Opening celebration with a full day of special tours, artist demonstrations, and art-making
November 8 – Stoop Stories about home at the BMA Meyerhoff Auditorium
November 21 – Stoop Stories storytelling workshop

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, and improved visitor amenities and essential 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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