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**MICA** MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART

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work by BRADLEY MCCALLUM & JACQUELINE TARRY

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**THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM AND MICA ORGANIZE THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE SURVEY OF BRADLEY MCCALLUM AND JACQUELINE TARRY, MAY 8–JULY 31**

*Exhibition Premieres the Artists' Projection Series, at the Contemporary Museum;  
Earlier Site-Specific Projects Exhibited Throughout Baltimore*

**Press Preview: Friday, May 7, 9:30–11 a.m.**

BALTIMORE—The Contemporary Museum and the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) Exhibition Development Seminar present *Bearing Witness: Work by Bradley McCallum & Jacqueline Tarry*, a mid-career survey of work by artists **Bradley McCallum** and **Jacqueline Tarry** to be shown at the Contemporary Museum, 100 W. Centre St., and various host venues throughout Baltimore, **Saturday, May 8–Saturday, July 31**. The **press preview** will be held **Friday, May 7, 9:30–11 a.m.** at the Contemporary Museum.

This exhibition will feature more than 10 years of work by McCallum and Tarry and will premiere their *Projection Series*—a new self-portrait video and painting series composed of film stills and stage photographs that investigates the intersection of race and popular culture—as well as feature selections from earlier site-specific projects, which is artwork created for a particular space.

A collaborative artist team since 1998, Brooklyn-based artists McCallum and Tarry have worked and exhibited globally, seeking to surface and discuss issues revolving around marginalized members of society. Their work, which takes many forms including large-scale public projects, performance, sculpture, painting, photography, video and self-portraiture, challenges audiences to face issues of race and social justice in family, community and history.

“Jackie and I have chosen to create works that draw audiences in and challenge them to think about the civic issues of our time and the historic underpinnings that inform these issues,” McCallum said.

“Our goal is to create artwork that has a visceral, physical and emotional presence,” Tarry said. “We create installations that encourage viewers to navigate the personal memories and experiences of an individual story contained within a broader social and political context.”

*Bearing Witness* connects McCallum and Tarry’s community-based projects, which were initially displayed in public spaces, with their gallery-based video, painting and installation works. In presenting these projects together for the first time, this exhibition will reveal the layered conceptual, aesthetic and historic threads in their practice. It will simultaneously make connections between McCallum and Tarry’s work and Baltimore’s local issues, institutions, histories and communities.

The artists envision a journey between venues as a reflective framework for viewers to consider the individual artworks, their own personal connections to the city and the collective responsibility of all citizens in an imperfect society.

The Contemporary Museum will be the primary exhibition site for *Bearing Witness*. Additional sites will serve as temporary homes for works by McCallum and Tarry that relate directly to those institutions’ collections and missions. They include MICA, the Carroll Mansion, Maryland Art Place, the Phoenix Shot Tower, Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, and The Walters Art Museum.

“From its founding, the Contemporary Museum has been a flexible collaborator, often working with Baltimore’s cultural institutions to realize ambitious projects that introduce challenging works and ideas to a larger public,” said Irene Hofmann, executive director of the Contemporary Museum. “With *Bearing Witness*, the museum continues this tradition through its collaboration with MICA, as it presents work which speaks to some of the most challenging issues of our time.”

McCallum and Tarry’s recent exhibitions include *Prospect 1*, New Orleans, 2008; *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery*, The New-York Historical Society, 2006; and *Witness: Perspectives on Police Violence*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, N.Y., 2000. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Caren Golden Fine Art, New York; Kinkead Contemporary, Los Angeles; and Kiang Gallery, Atlanta. In addition, McCallum and Tarry have been commissioned to realize large-scale civic and public works; most recently, they were awarded a commission to create a Malcolm X memorial at the intersection of Central Park and Malcolm X Boulevard in New York City.

Led by MICA faculty member Jennie Hirsh, a historian of modern and contemporary art, the College’s Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS) 2009/2010 is partnering with the Contemporary Museum and featured artists McCallum and Tarry. Each seminar offers a unique opportunity for student curators, educators and designers to organize a professional exhibition. Students in the class are responsible for every aspect of the project, including curatorial and site research, design and production of print- and Web-based materials, and educational programming. The goal of EDS is to explore new ways to engage artists, students, museums, galleries and the Baltimore community.

“Working with the students of this year’s Exhibition Development Seminar reaffirms the value of combining history, theory and practice when teaching contemporary art history,” Hirsh said. “*Bearing Witness* represents not only a comprehensive mid-career survey of McCallum and Tarry’s work but also the rich benefits of collaborative efforts between multiple institutions, museum professionals, educators, artists and students.”

*Bearing Witness* is part of the Contemporary Museum’s *Project 20*, a yearlong series of exhibitions, performances and site-specific projects celebrating the museum’s 20th anniversary. Each of the artists participating in *Project 20* was selected by one of 20 guest curators who each played a significant role in shaping the Contemporary Museum’s history, including artists, directors and curators.

George Ciscle, MICA’s curator-in-residence and founder of the Contemporary Museum, is one of *Project 20*’s guest curators. With the selection of EDS as an artistic endeavor for *Project 20*, he brings together two unprecedented

projects, pushing the boundaries of traditional curatorial paradigms.

“It gives me great satisfaction that this Exhibition Development Seminar has committed its efforts to the inspiring exhibition, *Bearing Witness*,” Ciscle said. “The students understand both the museum’s mission and the seminar’s educational foundation, and they have thoroughly researched the history of both institutions to promote the relevant artistic and philosophical relationships between them. By their connecting Brad and Jackie’s artistic practice to Baltimore, the students are using a curatorial approach that is at the core of my being invited to participate in *Project 20*.”

*Bearing Witness* is made possible partially through generous support from the Friends of the Exhibition Development Seminar, the National Endowment for the Arts and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund.

The Contemporary Museum is located at 100 W. Centre Street, in Baltimore’s Mt. Vernon Cultural District. Museum hours are noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more visitor information about the Contemporary Museum and *Project 20*, visit [www.contemporary.org](http://www.contemporary.org) or see the exhibition Web site at [www.mica.edu/mccallumtarry](http://www.mica.edu/mccallumtarry).

For more information about the exhibition or the Exhibition Development Seminar, call Himmelrich PR at 410.528.5400 or MICA’s Office of Communications at 410.225.2300.

Downloadable high-resolution images, which are available for press purposes only, are located at <http://www.mica.edu/mccallumtarry/images>.

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*Founded in 1826, MICA is among the top visual arts colleges in the nation. It enrolls 1,714 undergraduate and 218 graduate students from 48 states and 52 foreign countries, offering programs of study leading to the bachelor of fine arts (B.F.A.), master of arts (M.A.), and master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degrees. MICA’s outstanding graduate programs were ranked in the top 4 of 220 programs in U.S. News & World Report’s 2008-2010 Best Graduate Schools Edition and first nationally among specialty schools as a producer of Fulbright Scholars in an analysis by the Chronicle of Higher Education. The College also offers post-baccalaureate certificate programs and a full slate of credit and noncredit courses for adults, college-bound students, and children. MICA is recognized as an important cultural resource for the Baltimore/Washington region, sponsoring many public and community-outreach programs—including more than 100 exhibitions by students, faculty, and nationally and internationally known artists annually—as well as artists’ residencies, film series, lectures, readings, and performances.*

*The Contemporary Museum promotes the art and culture of our time by producing and presenting new works, new thinking, and new practices that are immediately relevant. The Contemporary has earned international acclaim for its thought-provoking exhibitions, innovative programming, and unique collaborations with artists, curators, critics, and members of the community.*

Image captions, all works by Bradley McCallum and Jacqueline Tarry (from left-right): *Untitled (Bradley Front)*, *Cut Series*, C-print, 2006 with *Untitled (Jacqueline Front, with Hands)*, *Cut Series*, C-print, 2006; *Panorama* (after Bert Williams and Samuel Lumiere; Library of Congress), *Projection Series*, oil on linen, toner on silk, 2008; *Bearing, Shaguanna* (from installation of *Bearing*, F.U.E.L., Philadelphia, 2006), toner on silk with audio, 2006; *Reward for Victory* (after Drum, 1976), *Projection Series*, oil on linen, toner on silk, 2009.