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***BEARING WITNESS: WORK BY BRADLEY MCCALLUM & JACQUELINE TARRY***  
**CLASS STATEMENT**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Bearing Witness: Work by Bradley McCallum & Jacqueline Tarry* is a multi-venue survey of more than 10 years of work by the husband and wife collaborative team Bradley McCallum and Jacqueline Tarry organized by the Contemporary Museum and the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) 2009/2010 Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS). *Bearing Witness* has a dual mission. First, we seek to present an exhibition that connects McCallum and Tarry's community-based and advocacy-based projects with their studio-based and gallery-based video, painting and installations works. The shared theoretical underpinnings and art historical context for these works have rarely been discussed. In presenting these projects together for the first time, we seek to reveal the layered conceptual, aesthetic and historic threads in their practice. Second, given the powerful content of McCallum and Tarry's work—addressing such themes as urban violence, homelessness, race relations and representation—we seek to create meaningful connections between their works and Baltimore's local issues, institutions, histories and communities.

**CURATORIAL PROCESS**

**The Exhibition Development Seminar Experience:** As curators of *Bearing Witness*, we are honored to extend the vision of George Ciscle, who founded the Contemporary Museum in 1989 and established the Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS) at MICA 13 years ago. Ciscle's choice of EDS as his contribution to the Contemporary Museum's yearlong series of exhibitions, *Project 20*, allows his educational philosophy, and socially charged and artistic conception of curatorial work converge. We are a large group of students working with established artists in an exceptional curatorial and pedagogical paradigm, and we are committed to materializing Ciscle's vision of learning by doing. McCallum and Tarry's works reflect the Contemporary Museum's founding mission and vision of commissioning and presenting work that addresses and challenges Baltimore's diverse population. In fostering relationships with various institutions, we seek to extend our influence beyond the limits of our academic environment and amplify the voice of contemporary art in Baltimore. We are responsible for every aspect of the project, including curatorial and site research, design and production of print-based and Web-based materials, and planning and implementing educational programming. Guided by our team mentors and each other, we are invested in exploring our place in the Baltimore community by finding new ways to engage artists, students, museums and galleries. As fine artists, our working relationships and output embody our belief in curatorial practice as a creative act.

**Creating the Exhibition:** Our process in creating this exhibition began with two tracks of research. The first took us deep into the work of McCallum and Tarry, their process and their past 15 years of artistic production. The second took us into Baltimore's neighborhoods and institutions in search of locations for our multi-venue vision for this exhibition. We began to explore possible sites for *Bearing Witness* by becoming researchers of the city; we studied maps, visited library archives, accessed resources of the Maryland Historical Society and attended Baltimore Heritage lectures. Our research then led us onto the streets where we explored a wide range of public and private venues, including church communities, abandoned theatres, museums, public parks, tourist sites, storefronts and historic districts. With respect to these possibilities, we considered factors, such as location, historical connections to the artists' work, accessibility, safety and logistics. From this research, a diverse group of viable venues emerged for the team to consider with the artists.

In making selections for this exhibition, we worked closely with the artists to understand fully their practice, the original contexts of their installations and how these projects could be translated to new venues. We sited works in seven locations in Baltimore, drawing connections between the artworks and the context of the venues' collections, histories, missions and locations. In addition to five venues that each showcase a single large-scale installation, two

venues provided the opportunity to present larger groupings of works. The resulting installations of previously site-specific works create a comprehensive look at McCallum and Tarry's career and generate a dialogue between previously separate projects. With this exhibition, we hope to inform and enrich the visitor's experience and understanding of Baltimore as well as initiate dialogue about issues raised by McCallum and Tarry's powerful works.

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.

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