

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT MARK BRADFORD'S *TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY*, FEATURED IN 2017 VENICE BIENNALE

*Bradford increases his civic engagement through a collaboration with
Greenmount West Community Center and other community organizations in Baltimore*

BALTIMORE, MD (November 10, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) announces it will present *Mark Bradford: Tomorrow Is Another Day*, the current exhibition in the U.S. Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale, from September 2018 through March 2019. Co-curated by Christopher Bedford, BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director and Commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion, and Katy Siegel, BMA Senior Programming and Research Curator and Thaw Endowed Chair of Modern American Art at Stony Brook University, *Tomorrow Is Another Day* is a multilayered narrative of new and existing work by Bradford in a variety of media—painting, sculpture, installation art, and video. These works reflect the artist's longtime social and intellectual interests, most notably in marginalized populations, and reveal his belief in art's ability to expose contradictory histories and inspire action in the present day. The Baltimore exhibition will also include a new site-specific installation, a spectacular painterly "waterfall" that sweeps through the East Lobby to the second floor, adjacent to the galleries featuring *Tomorrow Is Another Day*.

An integral element of Bradford's engagement in Baltimore is a partnership with Greenmount West Community Center (GWCC), a vital gathering place for adults, children, and youth living two miles south of the museum. Through a program of structured activities and open dialogue, the community center provides a safe and positive environment for underserved local youth to create, learn, and share. Bradford and his studio will provide the skills-based training and equipment to begin a silk-screening project at the GWCC with assistance from Noisy Tenants, a Baltimore-based organization that connects businesses and communities for innovative projects. Bradford's involvement with GWCC parallels his community engagement initiative in Venice, where he collaborated on a new store for Rio Terà dei Pensieri, a social cooperative nonprofit that provides opportunities for men and women incarcerated in Venice to create artisanal goods and other products and supports their re-integration into society.

"Mark's work is always rooted in the specific needs and conditions of the communities he partners with. This conviction is as central to him as his use of paper is to his practice as an abstract painter," said BMA Director Christopher Bedford. "I know the deeply personal exhibition he created for the U.S. Pavilion in Venice will resonate with many who live in or visit Baltimore, and I'm confident that Mark's partnership with Greenmount West Community Center will be transformative, for both the center and the BMA. We are honored to share these two vital and inextricable sides of Mark with the city."

"I am beyond thrilled to work with such a socially committed artist," said Greenmount West Community Association President Kisha L. Webster. "This partnership with the BMA and Mark Bradford will help us greatly expand our resources to better serve the youth in our community."

The Los Angeles-based artist, a leading figure in contemporary art, is known for his abstract paintings and collage-based works that recapture mid-century American art's capacity to conjure the sublime and evoke deep feeling, while incorporating layers of social and personal commentary. Bradford is deeply engaged with social issues as co-

founder of Los Angeles-based nonprofit Art + Practice, which encourages education and culture by supporting the needs of foster youth predominantly living in South Los Angeles, and providing access to free, museum-curated art exhibitions and moderated art lectures to the community of Leimert Park. The artist's equivalent commitments to formal intervention and social activism anchor his contribution to culture at large, and embody his belief that contemporary artists can reinvent the world we share.

"*Tomorrow Is Another Day* addresses the difficulties experienced by so many others who are trying to create foundations for themselves and find their footing," said Bradford. "The exhibition is not just about me, but about all of those who feel like they're on the periphery. Simultaneously, my collaboration with Greenmount West Community Center is an essential part of my process, creating sustainable platforms for people who don't have these opportunities."

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

Tomorrow Is Another Day takes visitors through a progression of installations that incorporate themes and figures from Bradford's personal life, Greek mythology, and the universe. The works from Venice include *Hephaestus*, two large slabs of marble engraved with a poem by Bradford that draws from the story of Hephaestus, son of the Greek goddess Hera, who was cast from Mount Olympus for being born lame. *Spoiled Foot* is a suspended swollen mass with a black and red pockmarked surface that bears down on visitors, pushing them to the periphery of the room. The work's title, *Spoiled Foot*, also draws from the story of Hephaestus, the god of artists and makers. *The Odyssey* series is a suite of three shimmering black-purple paintings made of endpapers, a material Bradford used in his early works from the 2000s and knew from working alongside his mother for decades in her beauty salon. These works surround the sculptural work, *Medusa*, a heaping and tangled mass of black bleached paper inspired by accounts of her as a beautiful and powerful woman wronged by Poseidon. *Oracle*, currently installed in the Rotunda of the U.S. Pavilion, evokes the feeling of being immersed in an archaeological ruin with twisted and bleached paper spiraling the domed ceiling and winding around other architectural details.

A new suite of monumental abstract canvases, including the exhibition title's namesake, *Tomorrow is Another Day*, were created with commercial paper that the artist bleached, soaked, and molded by hand. They suggest both biology and the heavens, as their circles and lines evoke cells and the body as well as planets. The exhibition concludes with *Niagara* (2005), a video that takes on new meaning as Black identity continues to evolve and "Black Lives Matter" is an ongoing national conversation. The video depicts Melvin, the artist's former neighbor, walking away from the camera, just as Marilyn Monroe did in the 1953 film of the same name. Though Melvin's old, ill-fitting clothing and the poor, urban neighborhood surrounding him are heightened by the objectifying angle of the camera, his energetic gait conveys the hope of walking into another tomorrow.

MARK BRADFORD

Mark Bradford was born in 1961 in Los Angeles, where he lives and works. He received a BFA (1995) and MFA (1997) from the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. Best known for his large-scale abstract paintings that examine the class-, race-, and gender-based economies that structure urban society in the United States, Bradford's richly layered and collaged canvases represent a connection to the social world through materials. Bradford uses fragments of found posters, billboards, newsprint, and custom-printed paper to simultaneously engage with and advance the formal traditions of abstract painting. Solo exhibitions include *Scorched Earth* at the Hammer Museum (2015), *Sea Monsters* at the Rose Art Museum (2014), Aspen Art Museum (2011), *Maps and Manifests* at Cincinnati Art Museum (2008), and *Neither New Nor Correct* at the Whitney Museum of American Art (2007). In 2009, Mark Bradford was the recipient of the MacArthur Foundation 'Genius' Award. In 2010, *Mark*

Bradford, a large-scale survey of his work, was organized by Christopher Bedford and presented at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, before traveling to the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Dallas Museum of Art; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. His work has been widely exhibited and has been included in group shows at LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2014), Whitney Museum of American Art (2013), the 12th Istanbul Biennial (2011), Seoul Biennial (2010), the Carnegie International (2008), São Paulo Biennial (2006), and Whitney Biennial (2006). He recently opened *Pickett's Charge*, a monumental commissioned cyclorama of paintings at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

GREENMOUNT WEST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Since 2001, the Greenmount West Community Association has been committed to improving the standard of living, quality of life, and economic status of all residents. In an effort to create opportunities for community members to feel safe, be inspired, and connect to each other via programming, the Greenmount West Community Center was established. The center serves as the hub for information, engagement, and fun. Youth and adult programming are offered six days a week.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA's internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation's finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000- square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The BMA is located in Charles Village, three miles north of the Inner Harbor, and is adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 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, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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