THE BMA PRESENTS DOCUMENTING THE SPIRIT ON APRIL 1

Artists, educators, and clergy discuss spiritual experiences during scholarly panel discussion

BALTimore, MD (March 28, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents Documenting the Spirit, a panel of practitioners, scholars, and observers of different religious traditions. Panelists will explore how spiritual experience is depicted through diverse formats such as art, literature, and mass communication, as well as how the spiritual can be made tangible to believers and non-believers alike. The conversation is inspired by Captain Gervasio’s Family (2013-2014), a film by artists Tamar Guimarães and Kasper Akhøj, on view in the museum’s Black Box Gallery. Presented in partnership with The Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Advanced Media Studies, the free event will be in the BMA Meyerhoff Auditorium on Saturday, April 1 from 4–5 p.m.

Moderated by Dr. Bernadette Wegenstein, Director of Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Advanced Media Studies, the panel will feature collaborators Guimarães and Akhøj; Dr. Yvonne Chireau, Professor of Religion at Swarthmore College; Dr. Michael Hanchard, Professor of Africana Studies at University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant, Founder of The Empowerment Temple.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

Copenhagen-based artists Tamar Guimarães and Kasper Akhøj have collectively exhibited at the 28th São Paulo Biennial and 56th Venice Biennale. Guimarães, a video, sound, and installation artist, has had solo exhibitions at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2009); Artspace Sydney (2010); Gasworks, London (2011); and the Århus Kunstbygning, Denmark (2012). Her work was nominated for the Premio Investidor Profissional Art Prize (PIPA) 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. Mixed-media artist Akhøj’s solo exhibitions include Welcome (TO THE TEKNIVAL) at the Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Overgaden at the Institute for Contemporary Art in Copenhagen, and After The Fair at the Wiels Centre for Contemporary Art, Brussels. His work has also been shown at Ludlow 38/Goethe Institute, New York. He has been an artist-in-residence at the 29th São Paulo Biennial and Platform Garanti in Istanbul, Turkey. Guimarães and Akhøj are currently in residence at The Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant is pastor and founder of The Empowerment Temple, the fastest growing church in the A.M.E denomination. His preaching and teaching focuses on empowering believers spiritually, developing them educationally, exposing them culturally, activating them politically, and strengthening them economically. Under his leadership, The Empowerment Academy, an elementary school for grades Pre-K through second, and The Empowerment Temple Family Life Center were established in 2003. Prior to his role as pastor, Dr. Bryant served as the director of the NAACP’s youth and college division. Today, his universal messages have been heard internationally with his Power to Life broadcast.

Dr. Yvonne Chireau is a professor in the Department of Religion at Swarthmore College, where she teaches courses on African American religions, American religious history, religion and culture, and New World African religions. She is the author of Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition (2003) and the co-editor of Black Zion: African American Religions and Judaism (1999). Her writing has focused on the African-American religious traditions, with an emphasis on the intersections between black spirituality and culture. Her most recent work is a collaborative project that engages conceptualizations of magic across traditions, practices, and contexts.

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 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA’s galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation’s finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. 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 a.m.—5 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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