

## THE BMA UNVEILS COMMISSIONED NEON SCULPTURE BY TAVARES STRACHAN ON HISTORIC FAÇADE

*Artwork will be formally illuminated at public event with the artist on Wednesday, August 8*

BALTIMORE, MD (August 3, 2018)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) announces it will present *Tavares Strachan: In broad daylight*, a new site-specific work commissioned by the museum that will be on view beginning August 8, 2018. For this installation, New York-based artist Strachan has rendered the words “In broad daylight” in a flowing neon script, setting the BMA’s historic façade aglow day and night for the next nine months. This simple statement can be interpreted as a question, an exclamation, an affirmation, or a challenge. The significance of the work shifts in relation to the perspectives of its viewers, reflecting the beliefs, values, and experiences of those that encounter it.



Photo by Maximilian Franz

“*In broad daylight* invites viewers to see the museum in a new light while they consider the meaning of the illuminated words,” said BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director Christopher Bedford. “It also signifies the BMA’s commitment to the city of Baltimore and to doing all that is required to become an indispensable part of civic life in 2018 and beyond.”

A reception with the artist will be held on Wednesday, August 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This free event will include refreshments and live music. The neon work will be formally illuminated at 8 p.m.

New York-based conceptual artist Tavares Strachan explores the intersection of science, art, and the environment to create works that are ambitious in scale and scope. Many of his projects investigate the nature of invisibility, calling into question the conditions that frame and legitimize certain cultural knowledge and histories while obscuring and erasing others. Strachan also aims to build and connect communities through his work by making networks of power more visible, prompting viewers to reconsider their social roles at the local and global levels. The perceived authority of language is the subject of *Us, We, Them* (2015), a neon sculpture that questions declarations of affiliation, locality, and identity. *A Children’s History of Invisibility* (2017) highlights topics often overlooked by society, creating an A-to-Z index of under-known histories. Overlooked figures are also brought forward in a series of collaged portraits, including 19th-century Korean empress *Queen Min* (2016–17), 20th-century musical innovator *Butch Morris* (2015–16), and Tibetan mountaineer *Tenzing Norgay* (2015–16). Their biographies remain largely unknown, yet their cultural influence has been broad and complex.

### TAVARES STRACHAN

Strachan (born 1979, Nassau, Bahamas) received a BFA in Glass from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2003 and an MFA in Sculpture from Yale University in 2006. He has had solo exhibitions in New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, Tel Aviv, and London, among others. In 2013, he represented the Bahamas in the nation’s inaugural pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale. *Seen/Unseen* (2011) was a closed exhibition that took place in an undisclosed location in New York City. His neon work, *I Belong Here* (2012), is on view in *Solidary & Solitary: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection*, a nationally touring exhibition that will open at the BMA in summer 2019. In 2018, he was named the first artist-in-residence at the Allen Institute, a nonprofit founded by philanthropist Paul G. Allen.

### **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](http://artbma.org).

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