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## **Berkshire Botanical Garden Collaborates with MASS MoCA**

### **Unveiling an Unprecedented Companion Art Exhibition**

#### **"Cultivate"**

### **Eleven Newly Commissioned Works of Art for the Garden**

Stockbridge, Massachusetts - March 31, 2008-For the first time in its nearly 75-year history, the Berkshire Botanical will have the opportunity to unveil brand new works of art created exclusively for the garden space. The new exhibition is the result of collaboration with MASS MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) and is curated by MASS MoCA's Denise Markonish. Cultivate, a new garden-wide exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, June 7, at Berkshire Botanical Garden and serves as a companion to the new show Badlands: New Horizons in Landscape, opening at MASS MoCA May 25.

Visitors to both exhibitions can expect to see a compelling portrayal of the landscape. According to Markonish, "Badlands is a survey of contemporary artists' responses to the world around them and it comes at a critical time in our environmental history. Whereas the artists at MASS MoCA present a more intense look at the declining landscape, the artists creating works for the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Cultivate will take a nurturing approach to nature and attempt to open our eyes to the symbiotic relationship we have with the land and see the world around us in a new way."

The thirteen contemporary artists participating in Cultivate are Betsy Alwin, Vaughn Bell, Leila Daw, Christopher Frost, Petra Groen, Christopher K. Ho and Daniel Bouthot R. Elliott Katz, Lynn Kobel, Joseph Smolinski, Luke Stettner and Mac Carbonell, and Jennifer Zackin.

"MASS MoCA generously arranged for artists to create this amazing companion exhibition," says Berkshire Botanical Garden Board member, Judith Owens. "The newly commissioned works of art will underscore the truth and beauty of our natural world and work perfectly with

our 2008 Nurturing Garden theme," she says. "This collaboration sets us on brand new path for the future, offering unique experiences for our garden visitors and special access for our members."

Artists visiting the Garden have already been set loose to begin formulating new ideas. "Joseph Smolinski is considering a small cell tower for the island in our Pond," says Director of Horticulture, Dorthe Hviid. "Others, like Leila Daw were inspired to think about hanging objects from the trees and like Jennifer Zackin, wrapping trees in colorful textiles."

The Garden will open its doors for the season on May 3, and installation of the art will begin that same week. The preparations have set the tone for an exciting joint venture. "These two new exhibitions open the next chapter in landscape tradition. They grow from and nurture one another, symbiotic just like the landscape itself," says Markonish."

For further information about the Berkshire Botanical Garden events, education and exhibitions please call 413-298-3926 or visit [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org).