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SFMOMA ANNOUNCES TWO GIFTS OF ART FOR ROOFTOP GARDEN

In anticipation of the SFMOMA Rooftop Garden opening next spring, Shirley Ross Davis has given the work *Untitled* (1983–87), by New York-based artist Joel Shapiro (American, born 1941), to the museum. The first piece by the artist to enter the collection, *Untitled* is a cast bronze sculpture created from cut blocks of wood. Shapiro's dynamic constructions allude to human figures in motion, but do not actually depict them. Like most of Shapiro's important works, this piece engages the viewer through thrusting rectangular forms, as well as its juxtaposition of smooth and wood-grained surfaces.

SFMOMA also announces the promised gift of *The Lens of Rotterdam* by Mario Merz (Italian, 1925–2003), from the Dodie and John Rosekrans Runnymede Collection. With this work, Merz adopted his archetypal form, the igloo. Great slabs of rock radiate from the center of the piece to form the base of the dome, a glass and metal edifice held together by clamps. Like the very best of Merz's sculptures, the piece is rich in materials and metaphor, alluding to inside and outside, pre- and post-industrial society, and nomadic shelter and social space, making it a perfect addition to the Rooftop Garden. The sculpture also joins SFMOMA's concentration of Arte Povera works, most notably pieces by Luciano Fabro and Giovanni Anselmo. *The Lens of Rotterdam* will be the first piece by Merz to enter the SFMOMA collection.

SFMOMA's Rooftop Garden is scheduled to open in spring 2009, as one of many special events leading up to the museum's 75th anniversary in 2010. A crowning enhancement to one of San Francisco's greatest cultural treasures, the Rooftop Garden will benefit the city by creating a new place of public interaction, a peaceful respite from surrounding urban bustle, and a fundamentally new way for visitors to experience the museum's ever-expanding art collection.

Some 14,400 square feet will offer ample space for showcasing new acquisitions slated specifically for the garden. It will also invite visitors to discover rarely seen works in the museum's present holdings, including modern sculptures such as Alexander Calder's *Big Crinkly* (1969) and works by Alberto Giacometti and Henry Moore, as well as contemporary works, including *Stele I* (1973) by Ellsworth Kelly; *Zim Zum I* (1969) by Barnett Newman; *Untitled (Wheels and Suspended Double Pyramid 3B)* (1978) by Bruce Nauman; and *Ferro* (1978–82) by Mark di Suvero.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's Rooftop Garden is made possible through the generous support of the following leadership gifts: the Mimi & Peter Haas Fund, Barbara and Gerson Bakar, the Jean and James Douglas Family, Patricia and William Wilson III, and Carolyn and Preston Butcher.

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Museum hours: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:45 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day): Open at 10 a.m. Closed Wednesdays and the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas. The Museum is open the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Koret Visitor Education Center: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:30 p.m. Summer hours: Open at 10 a.m.

Admission prices: Adults \$12.50; seniors \$8; students \$7. SFMOMA members and children 12 and under are admitted free. Thursday evenings after 6 p.m. admission is half-price. The first Tuesday of each month admission is free.

SFMOMA is easily accessible by Muni, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, and Caltrain. Hourly, daily, and monthly parking is available at the SFMOMA Garage at 147 Minna Street. For parking information, call 415.348.0971.

Visit our Web site at www.sfmoma.org or call 415.357.4000 for more information.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is supported by a broad array of contributors who are committed to helping advance its mission as a dynamic center for modern and contemporary art. Major annual support is provided by the Koret Foundation Funds, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. KidstART free admission for children 12 and under is made possible by Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Thursday evening half-price admission is sponsored by Banana Republic.

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