

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORCORAN CELEBRATES GRADUATES OF MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING PROGRAM WITH SPECIAL EXHIBITION JUNE 22 – JUNE 26

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This summer, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design's **Gallery 31** will open a special exhibition of artwork by 2011 graduates of the Corcoran College of Art + Design Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. A public opening reception will be held on Thursday, June 23 from 6-8 p.m.

Artists **Justin Pyles, Sara Gibson, Hernan Gigena, Jenna Lee, Rachel J. Samuel, Mary Battiata, Lauren Bomba and Susannah Brown** will show work in a variety of media including ceramics and collage, painting, drawing, and jewelry. The works make use of materials as diverse as brightly colored artist's tape, scavenged objects and shoe polish on wallpaper.

Justin Pyles's oil paintings are informed by iconic images of Washington, D.C., while Sarah Gibson's ceramic pieces use clay to explore the world. Hernan Gigena is a visual artist and designer whose work includes his signature pictures in line and tape as well as pieces from his most recent jewelry collection. Artist Jenna Lee's work explores the nuance of relationships through 2D and 3D media, while Rachel J. Samuel uses repetitive processes to create paintings with a delicate, handmade quality. Mary Battiata's recent drawings are meditations on the theme of paradise lost. Lauren Bomba's paper quilt is part of a series transforming scavenged objects into memory stamps. Susannah Brown is a professional photographer whose work explores the subconscious and nature.

The Corcoran's **Master of Arts in Teaching** (MAT) aims to treat teaching art as an art form. The Master of Arts in Teaching program is philosophically rooted in each student's reflective experience of making art, critiquing and interpreting art, and seeking the cultural interactions between works of visual art and society. Graduate students discover first-hand the processes through which human beings learn and develop fully through the visual arts. This program is socially engaged, with a progressive curriculum designed for future art educators who are determined to form a solid bridge between the personal experience of art and its capacity to enrich the lives of today's communities and their individual members.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to the Gallery is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID), children 12 and under, military (with valid ID) and Members enter for

free. Gallery 31 is the Gallery's free exhibition space, and is open all museum hours. From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (May 28—September 3, 2011), admission to the entire Gallery will be FREE, as part of Free Summer Saturdays. For more information, including special Gallery tours, workshops, demonstrations, and performances, visit www.corcoran.org/freesummersaturdays.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as America's first dedicated art museum and Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.

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