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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, TO EXPAND EVENING OFFERINGS

From Mummies to Monet, All Galleries to Stay Open Late Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Nights

BOSTON, MA (June 29, 2007)—The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), will expand its evening offerings on Thursdays and Fridays to give visitors more opportunities to view its entire collection— from ancient to contemporary works. Beginning July 5, *all* Museum galleries will be open from 10 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. (Previously, just the Museum’s West Wing was open on Thursday and Friday evenings.) In addition, the MFA is open Saturdays through Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

“With the entire Museum open late Wednesdays through Fridays, visitors will be able to take full advantage of the total MFA experience,” said Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund director. “My philosophy has always been that we should be a welcoming place, and by opening doors to all of our galleries on these three evenings, we hope to offer more opportunities for people to meet with friends to see everything from mummies to Monet, attend concerts and films, or ‘mfasummerfridays.’ This is yet another way to make the MFA more accessible to those looking for an evening of art and entertainment.”

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is renowned for its encyclopedic collection of more than 450,000 objects, as well as its special exhibitions, such as *Edward Hopper*, which will be on view through August 19. The MFA offers numerous public programs during the summer to enhance visitors’ appreciation of the arts, as well as a lineup of outdoor concerts in the courtyard and films. It also provides opportunities for socializing on Wednesday through Friday evenings

—more—

with dining in the *Galleria Café* and *Bravo*, monthly wine tastings on Wednesdays in *Bravo*, and “mfasummerfridays,” an evening of cocktails, conversation, music, and art appreciation in the Calderwood Courtyard every Friday evening in July and August.

Expanded evening offerings are part of the many new initiatives to enhance the visitor’s experience and make the Museum more accessible. These include:

- **The Citizens Bank Foundation Wednesday Nights program**, which offers free general admission from 4 to 9:45 p.m. (Gund Gallery exhibitions require an entrance fee);
- **Concerts in the Courtyard**, which run on Wednesday evenings (with the exception of the July 4th holiday which moves the concert to July 5) through August 22, offering a summer exploration of global sounds from zydeco to the music of Israel and Belize;
- **Films**, which feature contemporary international cinema, restored classics, American independent films, films showing for the first time in Boston, and retrospectives by international film artists, as well as French and Jewish film festivals and special screenings and films relating to special exhibitions;
- **Programs and tours**, such as *Drawing in the Galleries* on Wednesday evenings when participants can sketch live models or objects from the Museum’s collection; and tours in English and foreign languages, as well as curatorial talks in the galleries, during the day and on various evenings;
- **Increased visitor amenities**, such as the Ambassador program, through which college students provide assistance to Museum visitors; additional Museum garage parking and the convenience of paying for parking in the Museum itself; and more gallery seating.

For more information about these and other offerings, please go to the MFA web site at www.mfa.org and click on Calendar.

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Open seven days a week, the MFA’s hours are: Saturday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.; Wednesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. General admission (which includes two visits in a 10-day period, but does not include Gund Gallery exhibitions) is \$17 for adults and \$15 for senior citizens and students age 18 and above. Students who are University Members are free. Admission is free for children 17 years of age and under during non-school hours. Admission is free (except for Gund Gallery exhibitions) during Citizens Bank Foundation Wednesday Nights (4–9:45 p.m.), voluntary donations welcome. The Museum is closed on New Year’s Day, Patriot’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For general visitor information, visit the MFA Web site at www.mfa.org or call 617.267.9300.