

# Museum of Contemporary Art|Denver

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2006

Contact: Felix Ortiz

(303) 298-7554

[felixo@mcartdenver.org](mailto:felixo@mcartdenver.org)

**Museum of Contemporary Art|Denver breaks ground on new building, May 1, 2006**  
*MCA's Board of Trustees, donors, and special VIP guests will put the shovel into ground, marking beginning of construction for the much-anticipated new facility-*

(Denver, CO) The Museum of Contemporary Art|Denver (MCA) is pleased to announce that it will break ground on its new facility **May 1, 2006** on the site at **15<sup>th</sup> & Delgany** in downtown Denver, Colorado. MCA Board of Trustees and staff will be joined by the Museum's major donors, City of Denver dignitaries, and the building's architect David Adjaye, thus marking the public phase of MCA's much-anticipated new building construction and capital campaign.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to be moving into the next phase of this extraordinary project," remarked Cydney Payton, MCA Director/Curator. "The new MCA building will be a stunning example of 21<sup>st</sup> century architecture and is sure to become integral to Denver's cultural identity. We are also extremely proud that this design accomplishes all of the goals we set for ourselves when we first sent out the international RFQ." After public presentations by six leading international architectural firms in 2004, a committee selected the British architect Adjaye to design the new MCA, which will significantly contribute to the revitalization of Lower Downtown, in particular the Central Platte Valley Riverfront district near the historic Union Station.

The future home of MCA is envisioned as a space where architecture supports, rather than defines, the mission of the Museum to present the most innovative and challenging art of our time. The new building, which sits on property generously donated by Mark Falcone and Ellen Bruss, will be approximately 26,000 square-feet, about 28% larger than Museum officials originally planned, to take advantage of the entire site.

MCA is moving forward in partnership with M. A. Mortenson Company, a national builder known for their superior work throughout Colorado and consistently one of the top three builders in the state. The Denver office has received awards from Associated General Contractors for Contribution to Community and for Construction Excellence, and Awards of Merit from the American Concrete Institute.

Currently, MCA's Contemporary Campaign Committee, co-chaired by Mark Falcone and Woody Beardsley, has garnered almost nine million dollars to date toward the construction of the new Museum. MCA's comprehensive campaign goal is \$18 million which includes raising funds for the new building structure, operating costs associated with the new facility, and an endowment fund to ensure long-term stability for the organization.

# Museum of Contemporary Art|Denver

To date, major donors include some of the leading philanthropists in the greater Denver Metro area: The Boettcher Foundation (matching grant), The Bonfils Stanton Foundation, Sue Cannon & Family, Ellie & George Caulkins, Mary Caulkins & Karl Kister, John Caulkins, Thomas & Noel Congdon, Mark Falcone & Ellen Bruss, The Fox Family, Charles C. & June S. Gates Foundation, The Gates Family Foundation, and The David & Laura Merage Foundation.

The new MCA will house five gallery spaces for multi-media works of art, works on paper, photography and new media. In addition, the new Museum will house two educational spaces, *The Whole Room*, for lectures, music, poetry, dance and conferences and the *Idea Box* – a space for children and families that provide hands-on activities and will encourage interaction with art and artists. A rooftop design will offer diverse experiential and programmatic opportunities.

The new galleries will provide much needed space for the Museum's diverse program of regional, national and international exhibitions, installations, and educational programs. The building's design allows for the dynamic flow of exhibitions in multiple arenas. The skin of the new museum will be a glass and polypropylene curtain wall system that encloses elegant and discrete spaces for art. The skin will underscore Adjaye's interest in light as a medium and provide luminosity throughout the museum, especially in the gallery spaces. The building will also be a model of sustainable design and energy efficiency, with a goal of achieving LEED certification.

Founded in 1996, MCA is a non-collecting museum and is Denver's first museum dedicated to presenting art of our time. Programs at MCA focus on celebrating the artistic strengths of this region, while also integrating national and international artists, curators and writers to create rich, cross-disciplinary dialogues.

The Contemporary Campaign Committee members are: Mark Falcone (co-chair), Woody Beardsley (co-chair), Sue Cannon, Ellie Caulkins, Tom Congdon, Cydney Payton, Dean Prina, and Karl Kister.

To make a donation to the Contemporary Campaign please contact MCA's Development Director, Scott Anderson at 303.298.7554 ext. 206.

## Museum of Contemporary Art|Denver

MCA's mission is to serve as an innovative forum for contemporary art that inspires and challenges all audiences, creating understanding and dialog about art of our time.

Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver is currently located at 1275 19th Street, Denver, CO 80202. For more info, call 303.298.7554 or visit [www.mcartdenver.org](http://www.mcartdenver.org). HOURS: MCA is open Tue – Sat 11 – 5:30, Sun 12 – 5:30. ADMISSION: General public \$5, Students/Teachers/Seniors \$3, MCA Members ALWAYS FREE.