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MOORE VISIONARY WOMAN JANE VALENTAS GIVES 1920 PHILADELPHIA CAROUSEL NEW LIFE

(Philadelphia, PA) - Artist and former Estee Lauder advertising executive **Jane Valentas**, a 1966 graduate of Moore College of Art & Design will see her vision for a historic 1920 Philadelphia carousel fully realized in late August, when it is installed in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Valentas spent more than two decades restoring the carousel with historic accuracy. Her far reaching vision has already made an impact on the art-rich DUMBO neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, for whose revitalization Valentas along with husband developer David Valentas is also credited. Jane Valentas is one of three women who will be honored with the 2011 Visionary Woman Awards by Moore College of Art & Design on October 12, 2011.

Since 2003, Moore's Visionary Woman Awards has honored women who have made significant contributions to the arts. Along with **Jane Valentas**, this year's honorees include Pulitzer-prize winning political cartoonist **Signe Wilkinson** and acclaimed Native American artist **Jaune Quick-to-See Smith**. The Visionary Woman Awards and consecutive exhibitions have become a widely recognized signature event at Moore. Since 2005, the College has designated proceeds from the event to benefit Visionary Woman Scholarships. To date, 24 significant four-year merit-based Visionary Woman Award scholarships have been awarded to talented undergraduates.

The 2011 Visionary Woman Award gala will be held at Moore College of Art & Design, October 12, 2011 at 6 pm. The Elizabeth Greenfield Zeidman Lecture featuring the three honorees will be held earlier that day at 2 pm in the Stewart Auditorium. The Galleries at Moore will host three consecutive Visionary Woman Award Exhibitions. The lecture and exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Signe Wilkinson: Keeping the World in Line, will be on view in the Graham Gallery from August 20 – October 15. The exhibition highlights the career of Wilkinson and includes a selection of editorial cartoons that she has produced for the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Grouped by ongoing themes found in the artists' work, they include her perspectives on education, peace and/or war, women and more. The exhibition also includes a section devoted to works from *Family Tree*, her daily comic strip.

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Jaune Quick-To-See Smith: I See Red, Paintings and Prints 1992 – 2005, will be on view in the Goldey Paley Gallery from September 24 – December 10, 2011. Elaborating on her Native heritage and worldview, Smith's richly layered juxtapositions of text and image in her large scale prints and canvases address today's tribal politics, human rights and environmental issues with a sophisticated combination of humor and wit.

Jane's Carousel: The Making of a New York Landmark, will be on view in the Levy Gallery for the Arts in Philadelphia from September 24 – December 10, 2011. *Jane's Carousel* follows the dedicated efforts of Moore alumnae Jane Valentas, who spent more than two decades working on the complete restoration of a historic Carousel made by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. It is the first carousel to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on the 2011 Visionary Woman Awards, this year's honorees, and associated events and exhibitions go to www.moore.edu.

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Moore College of Art & Design educates students for careers in art and design. Founded in 1848, Moore is the nation's first and only women's art college. Moore's student-focused environment and professionally active faculty form a dynamic community in the heart of Philadelphia's cultural district. The College offers nine bachelor of fine arts degrees for women. Coeducational graduate programs were launched in summer, 2009. In addition, Moore provides many valuable opportunities in the arts through The Galleries at Moore, continuing education programs for professional adults, the 85-year-old acclaimed Young Artists Workshop for girls and boys grades 1-12, The Art Shop and the Sculpture Park. For more information about Moore, visit www.moore.edu.

Brief Bios of Awardees:

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is one of the most acclaimed American Indian artists today. Smith has had over 80 solo exhibits in the past 30 years and has done printmaking projects nationwide. She has organized and/or curated over 30 Native exhibitions, lectured at more than 185 universities, museums and conferences internationally, most recently at 5 universities in China. Smith has completed several collaborative public art works such as the floor design in the Great Hall of the new Denver Airport and a mile-long sidewalk history trail in West Seattle. Smith has received awards such as the Academy of Arts and Letters Purchase Award, the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters Grant, the Women's Caucus for the Arts Lifetime Achievement, the College Art Association Women's Award, and the Governor's Outstanding New Mexico Woman's Award in 2005. She is in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC; the Museum of Modern Art and The Whitney Museum in New York City; The Walker in Minneapolis; the Museum of Modern Art in Quito, Ecuador; and the Museum of Mankind in Vienna, Austria.

Jane Valentas and her husband, David, have been responsible for transforming the DUMBO section of Brooklyn into one of the New York's most desirable neighborhoods. Jane made sure that DUMBO was a haven for artists and designers by offering free or reduced rents for artists and cultural organizations. In 1984, Jane bought a 1920s carousel at auction in Ohio, manufactured by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. She spent 22 years in her studio using her vision to restore the hand-carved wooden structure to its original splendor. The carousel has been on display in DUMBO since 2006 and is due to be installed in 2011 in Brooklyn Bridge Park in an acrylic pavilion created by French architect Jean Nouvel. The design will allow the landmark merry-go-round to be lit up at night so it can be seen from across the East River. Eventually, children from all over will come to Brooklyn to take a ride. A 1966 graduate of Moore, Jane created the Jane Valentas Endowed Scholarship and International Travel Fellowship, a four-year scholarship that also recognizes the importance of the global perspective in educating contemporary visual artists.

Signe Wilkinson is one of contemporary America's few women cartoonists. Wilkinson began her career as a journalist, but soon became more interested in cartooning. After attending the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and freelancing, Wilkinson joined the staff of the *San Jose Mercury News* and, in 1985, she returned to Philadelphia as the editorial cartoonist for the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Her work is been featured in many national publications. In 1992, she was the first female cartoonist to win the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning. Other awards include the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in 2008 and 2002; the 1991 Berryman Award for "work that exhibits power to influence public opinion, plus good drawing and striking effect"; and the 2006, 2002 and 1997 Overseas Press Club Award. She has served as president of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. Her latest creation is a new daily comic called Family Tree, distributed nationally by United Feature Syndicate.