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**AND THE LAND GREW QUIET: NEW WORK BY MATTHEW MOORE  
ON VIEW AT PHOENIX ART MUSEUM**

Opens February 11, 2012

PHOENIX (December 27, 2011)—*And the Land Grew Quiet: New Work by Matthew Moore*, a contemporary art exhibition opening on February 11, 2012, at Phoenix Art Museum, is the first museum show focused on the work of Arizona-based artist Matthew Moore (b. 1976). Moore has exhibited nationally and has used the legacy and scale of Land Art to explore the loss of farmland to urban growth in the metropolitan Phoenix area, as well as contemporary consumers' alienation from the basic principles of agriculture. Moore has created all new work for this exhibition, contrasting the cycles of development and speculation in our own time with those of the Great Depression by mixing technology and nature as well as fiction and history. The exhibition, on view through June 10, 2012, represents an innovative and new direction in Moore's work. It is conceived as a single project that maps urban growth on the land and nature's resistance to the man-made within the sublime context of the harsh but awe-inspiring landscape and climate of central Arizona.

"At this compelling moment in history, it is a wonderful opportunity to work with Matt to reflect on where we are and where we are going," said James Ballinger, the Sybil Harrington Director, Phoenix Art Museum. "An artist's perspective strikes viewers in different ways, but it represents fertile moments for new conversations."

"It is tremendously exciting to work with an artist of the caliber of Matthew Moore, especially given the current growth and change in his artistic practice," commented Dr. Sara Cochran, curator of Modern and Contemporary art, Phoenix Art Museum. "It has been very stimulating to see Matt think through this new project and to see the different elements take shape in his studio. It will be a haunting and unusual presence in our galleries at the Museum. I think the public will be very surprised by it."

Moore is the last of four generations of his family to farm their land to the west of Phoenix, and has overseen its gradual transformation from fields into suburban housing. As Moore has explained, "As a farmer and an artist, I display the realities of this transition in order to rationalize and document my displacement from the land on which I was raised. The trials and tribulations of American agriculture, its roles in contemporary globalization, and its continually debated ecological practices create a foundation for my explorations. The human condition of transforming space and the Western fascination of Manifest Destiny are the foundations for my explorations; I use land and art to display similarities between commercial agriculture and suburbia, revealing their social, cultural and economic impacts locally, nationally and internationally."

Moore's past work includes breathtaking projects on his family's farm in the West Valley of Phoenix, notably the *Rotations* series. These projects used the scale of fields and the time-scan of crops to explore the legacy of

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Land Art and the suburbanization of the West. *Moore Rotation: Single Family Residence* (2003–2004) placed a 20-acre field of barley next to a newly-built suburban community in which Moore carved out an enlarged plan of a typical single-family tract home. The lines of the floor plan were eight feet wide swaths that the artists hoed from the field by hand, laboriously marking the mapping the rooms of the houses that would soon overtake the field. Two years later, with *Rotations: Moore Estates* (2005–2006), using the blueprints for a developer's planned community on land purchased from the artist's family, Moore re-created the plan at one-third scale in sorghum and wheat on 35 adjacent acres. The artist used a computer-aided design program and a global-positioning satellite system to plot the roads and rows of houses on the field. This first step allowed him to visualize how suburbanization would change his land. More recently, his *Digital Farm Collective*—a project supported by a Creative Capital grant and shown at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival—used time-lapse photography to film crops and educate consumers about the produce they eat, its growing process on the land and the time-based concepts integral to agriculture.

Matthew Moore was born in 1976 in San Jose, California. He lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona. He received a B.A. in studio art and art history from Santa Clara University, California, in 1998 and a M.F.A. in sculpture from San Francisco State University in 2003. His work has been shown around the country, including at the Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, California (2009), the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2008), and MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (2005). He has been featured in international publications including *Metropolis Magazine*, *Dwell* and *Architecture Magazine*, as well as *Mark Magazine* and *Dazed and Confused* of Europe.

On Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7p.m., Matthew Moore will give a public lecture about his new exhibition in Whiteman Hall at Phoenix Art Museum. This talk is presented by Contemporary Forum with the sponsorship of Bentley Gallery and Bentley Projects.

*And the Land Grew Quiet: New Work by Matthew Moore* is organized by Phoenix Art Museum. The exhibition is made possible by the support of Maxine Marshall and her late husband Jonathan through the Marshall Fund of Arizona and the support of Lee and Mike Cohn, CFG Business Solutions, LLC. Admission to the exhibition is included in general museum admission, which is \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens (65+), \$10 for full-time college students with ID, \$6 for children ages 6-17 and free for children under 6 and for museum members.

### **About Phoenix Art Museum**

Phoenix Art Museum is located in downtown Phoenix at the corner of Central and McDowell Road. Museum Hours are Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays. Admission is free on Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and for everyone on First Fridays, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Phoenix Art Museum is the Southwest's premier destination for world-class visual arts. Popular international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's outstanding collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. A vibrant destination for over fifty years, Phoenix Art Museum presents festivals, live performances, independent art films and educational programs that enlighten, entertain and stimulate. Visitors also enjoy

PhxArtKids an interactive space for children, vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, the lushly landscaped Sculpture Garden, dining at Palette Restaurant, and shopping at The Museum Store. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit [PhxArt.org](http://PhxArt.org), or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

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