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**BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS FIRST COMPREHENSIVE U.S.
EXHIBITION OF WORK BY ARGENTINE ARTIST JORGE MACCHI**

**Blanton and 2007 Mercosul Biennial in Brazil
are co-organizers of internationally traveling exhibition**

Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy
December 15, 2007 – March 16, 2008

AUSTIN, Texas – October 9, 2007 – The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin will present the first comprehensive U.S. exhibition of the art of Jorge Macchi, one of Latin America's principal contemporary artists. On view December 15, 2007, through March 16, 2008, *Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy* will feature more than 40 of the artist's most important works from the 1990s to the present, drawn from public and private collections in South America, Europe, and the United States.

Jorge Macchi is co-organized by the Blanton Museum of Art and the Fundação Bial do Mercosul in conjunction with the Sixth Mercosul Biennial, held in Porte Alegre, Brazil, where the exhibition premieres September 1 – November 17, 2007, before traveling to the Blanton. Following its presentation in Austin, the exhibition will travel to the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporáneo in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The exhibition has been curated by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro, curator of Latin American art for the Blanton, who is also serving as chief curator of the Sixth Mercosul Biennial. "Jorge Macchi's work is widely admired by art experts and the general public alike, but this is the first opportunity to see a comprehensive overview of his work from the early 1990s to the present," said Pérez-Barreiro. "Macchi's work is compelling in how he walks the very fine line between sophisticated conceptual strategies and emotive content."

A 2005 featured artist at the Venice Biennale, Macchi has garnered international attention for his delicate meditations on the poetics of everyday life using a variety of media and formats, from video installations to artist's books to cut out newspaper collages. His work is characterized by a somewhat melancholic air, with subjects ranging from acts of random violence to unrequited love, the impossibility of conclusion, and the interplay

between presence and absence. Among featured works in the show are: *Monoblock* [*Tower Block*] (1999), in which text is removed from newspaper obituaries; *Guía de la inmovilidad* [*Guidebook to Stillness*] (2003), a guidebook of Buenos Aires from which all of the city blocks have been removed, leaving only a skeletal remnant of a city, and a new commission, *Fim de Film* [*End of the Film*], a video work in collaboration with composer Edgardo Rudnitsky, including a film score performed by the Orquesta Sinfonica de Porto Alegre. The museum is acquiring this work thanks to a generous gift by Museum Council member Ellen Susman and her husband Steve. This acquisition is part of the museum's effort to acquire Latin American artwork dating from the 1990s to the present day—an endeavor that builds on the Latin American collection's strengths and maintains its position as one of the preeminent collections in the United States.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1963, Macchi has gained a significant reputation in his native Argentina and Europe, though he is less well known in the United States. Museums that have featured solo exhibitions of his work include the University of Essex in England, Recoleta Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Antwerp.

Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy is co-organized by the Blanton Museum of Art and the Fundação Bienal do Mercosul. Funding for the exhibition is provided by The Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation and the Susan Vaughan Foundation. This project is also supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro, the exhibition curator.

Blanton Museum of Art

The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin is one of the foremost university art museums in the country, and has the largest and most comprehensive collection of art in Central Texas. The museum welcomes and engages all visitors by offering personal, extraordinary experiences that connect art and ideas, reaching within and beyond The University of Texas campus to stimulate the thriving, creative community that is Austin, Texas, and beyond. The Blanton's permanent collection of more than 17,000 works is recognized for its European Old Master paintings, an encyclopedic collection of

prints and drawings, and modern and contemporary American and Latin American art. The collection of Latin American art is one of the largest, longest-held, and most comprehensive in the country, and includes works by many artists not represented in other U.S. collections. It is particularly strong in Mexican graphics of the early twentieth century and post-1970 paintings and drawings from South America. Specific concentrations include the School of the South (Joaquín Torres García, Francisco Matto, Julio Alpuy, Gonzalo Fonseca), New Figuration (Luis Felipe Noé, Rómulo Macció, Jorge de la Vega, Antonio Seguí), Political Conceptualism (Luis Camnitzer, Eugenio Dittborn, Gonzalo Diaz, Cildo Meireles), and emerging artists (Jorge Macchi, Yoshua Okon, Diego Gravinese).

Hours and Admission

Located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue, the museum is across the street from the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and is adjacent to downtown Austin. The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10-5, Thursday 10-8 (free admission day), and Sunday from 1-5. Admission is free to members, all current University of Texas students, faculty, and staff, and children 12 and under, \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for college students with valid ID, and \$3 for youth (13-21). For information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.

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