WORCESTER ART MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW WALL AT WAM: “Actions Speak” BY ARTIST COLLABORATIVE THINK AGAIN

(WORCESTER, Mass., September 29, 2008) – The Worcester Art Museum is pleased to announce the new WALL at WAM, opening October 30, 2008. Commissioned to create the 7th in the Wall at WAM series, artist collaborative THINK AGAIN has conceived a multi-media project examining the relationship among brutality, government, and the media. The project features a 17- x 67- foot interior wall mural in the Museum’s Renaissance Court, and a concurrent outdoor projection on the exterior façade of the Museum on Lancaster Street. The project, entitled “Actions Speak,” is the first to utilize both the Museum’s interior and exterior space. The projection is on view after dark during public evening hours on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

WHO IS THINK AGAIN?
Public artists S.A. Bachman (Boston and Los Angeles) and David John Attyah (Los Angeles) co-founded the artist-activist collaborative THINK AGAIN in 1997. THINK AGAIN’s work recruits art-making in the service of public address, collective dialogue and social action. Their projects – featuring billboards, outdoor projections, postcard actions, and artist books – explore social issues including: the flow of international labor; the treatment of immigrants; the cultural value of sexual liberation; the logic of militarization; and the
dynamics of economic inequality, gentrification and displacement. THINK AGAIN is committed to working both inside and outside of the traditional art sphere – broadening ideas of socially conscious contemporary art, and expanding notions of art used for community action.

S.A. Bachman is a senior faculty at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and David John Attyah is full-time faculty at Glendale Community College in Los Angeles. Both artists have significant ties to Massachusetts, as Bachman teaches in Boston and Attyah’s family is native to Worcester. THINK AGAIN’s public projects have occurred in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, and are documented in their monograph, A Brief History of Outrage (2003). Their exhibitions include the Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona; Arizona State University Art Museum; Maryland Institute College of Art; Exit Art (New York City); Track 16 (Los Angeles); G-A-S-P (Boston); and Outpost for Contemporary Art (Los Angeles).

THINK AGAIN AT WAM

THINK AGAIN’s Worcester project focuses on the connections between political brutality and public policy, and reconsiders social problems like HIV/AIDS and violence against women. Debuting the week before the Presidential Election, the project promotes dialogue between art and public response, between global reality and local action. “Actions Speak” is a hybrid of text, photography, drawing, etching, sculpture, and digital design. The mural’s iconography – a mass of paper bones entangled in the cords of monumental microphones – links political discourse directly to individual bodies. The microphone – a signature image for THINK AGAIN – operates as a metaphor for political possibility, apathy, and censorship. Its entangled relation to the femur bone – a proxy for the body – raises the questions: What is the direct effect of policy on individuals? Who gets to speak and who lives with the consequences? The murals’ cascade of words associated with brutality and stigmatization is echoed in a corresponding projection on the Museums’ façade. Streetside, the projection of an open microphone, awaiting a speaker, accompanies a succession of words from the mural, out of which emerge words of empowerment and positive action.

WHAT IS THE WALL AT WAM?

The Wall at WAM provides a highly visible space for invited artists to create new, site-specific projects. The Wall at WAM is fundamental to the goal of the Museum’s Contemporary Art program, which seeks to function as a laboratory for participating artists and visitors alike. Now in its seventh incarnation, this unique series of temporary projects is sited on a second-story, 17- x 67-foot expanse in the Museum’s Renaissance Court, one of WAM’s most public spaces, and overlooks 6th-century Roman mosaics, including WAM’s Worcester Hunt. On view for an extended period, the Wall at WAM affords artists unique opportunities and challenges posed by its monumental scale, ephemeral nature, and moving juxtaposition of past and present. Previous projects have included paintings, a video projection, and inkjet wallpaper, and have introduced audiences to new work by leading young artists from around the world and New England: Arturo Herrara,
Sophie Tottie, Annette Lemieux, Denise Marika, Julian Opie, Jim Hodges, and Alexander Ross. The Wall at WAM has become an invaluable venue for artists and audiences by offering a transformative experience of unfamiliar and untested art of our time in the very heart of an encyclopedic museum.

Learn more about THINK AGAIN: www.agitart.org/actionsspeak. THINK AGAIN’s most recent project: www.saltinthewound.org.

Exhibition Credits
This project is supported by the Don and Mary Melville Contemporary Art Fund. Additional generous support provided by David and Marlene Persky and Worcester Magazine.

RELATED EVENTS
Reception for the Artists
Thursday, October 30, 5:30-8pm
Renaissance Court (wall mural)/Lancaster Street façade (projection)
Members FREE; Nonmembers $10

THINK AGAIN Artists’ Talk
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 6:30pm

Upcoming Thursday Evening Projections
Lancaster Street façade
November 20, 2008
December 18, 2008
January 15, 2009
February 19, 2009
March 19, 2009
April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009

About the Worcester Art Museum
The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture. View paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler; admire floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch; see cutting-edge contemporary art; and discover the Museum’s many other treasures. Special exhibitions showcase the masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. Enjoy a delectable lunch in The Museum Café, and browse The Museum Shop for unique gifts and mementos.

Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 7,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11am and NEW family tours Sundays at 1 & 1:30pm, September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am-5pm, Third Thursdays of every month, 11am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Admission is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10am-noon (sponsored by Fidelity Investments and The TJX Companies, Inc.).

The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

Electronic images available.

Editors: Why typeset when you can copy and paste from the web?
Find this release online at http://www.worcesterart.org/Information/press.html
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by THINK AGAIN (David John Attyah and S.A. Bachman)
On view beginning October 30, 2008

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