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Immediate Release

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**JANUARY FREE THURSDAYS FEATURE TOURS, GLOBAL FILMS,
A GALLERY TALK, AND A MULTIMEDIA POETRY READING**

January Free Thursdays (January 8, 15, 22, and 29) at the Walker Art Center feature an assortment of free events for visitors. Highlights include screenings from the monthlong Global Lens film series, featuring works that promote cross-cultural understanding. Presented by the Walker in partnership with the Global Film Initiative, the series offers matinee screenings on January 8, 15, and 22, at 1 pm to engage high school students with cultural perspectives and world events. On January 22 at 7 pm, poet Pierre Joris and artist Nicole Peyrafitte present a Free Verse audiovisual performance using sound, text, and images, with music by Holland Hopson. Patrons can also take part in a gallery talk on January 15 at 6:30 pm focusing on visual perception and the work of Jasper Johns. In addition, afternoon and evening tours take place each Thursday and galleries remain open until 9 pm. For information on these and other Walker events, call 612.375.7622 or visit www.walkerart.org/tickets/.

Free Thursdays

January 8, 15, 22, 29 (closed New Year's Day)
Galleries open 10 am–9 pm; special events follow.
Free

January 1

Museum closed—New Year's Day

January 8

Tours

Meet in the lobby.
Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983, 1 pm
Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983, 6 pm

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Free Films: Global Lens, 1 and 8 pm

Ticket to Jerusalem, 1 pm (student matinee)

Directed by Rashid Masharawi

In a Palestinian refugee camp near Ramallah, Jaber runs a mobile cinema, bringing entertainment throughout the disputed territory of the West Bank. Due to the declining situation of the conflict, his mission meets more and more obstacles—too many checkpoints, travel restrictions, permits that are difficult to obtain. When Jaber is encouraged by a schoolteacher to organize a screening in the heart of the Palestinian cause, Jerusalem's old city, his perseverance is put to the test: the house where the film is to be shown has been taken over by Israeli settlers, and the schoolteacher and her mother with it. 2003, Palestine, color, 35mm, in Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, 85 minutes.

Khorma (Khorma, Enfant du cimetière), 8 pm

Directed by Jilani Saadi

Introduced by Imed Labidi, Doctoral Candidate, Cultural Studies in Discourse and Society, University of Minnesota

In the small village of Bizerte, Khorma's red hair and pale complexion make him stand out. His elderly guardian, the town's official announcer of births, deaths, and marriages, is highly revered—mourning rituals drive a good deal of the economy (water to be sold at cemeteries, henna to be applied to the dead, mourning songs to be sung). But when the old man mistakenly announces the death of a woman instead of the marriage of her daughter, the village is up in arms. They appoint Khorma to replace his guardian in the high position, but this newfound power proves too tempting for him. Ready to seek revenge for the teasing he endured because of his physical appearance, he uses his position for his own gain. 2002, Tunisia, color, 35mm, in Arabic with English subtitles, 100 minutes.

January 15

Tours

Meet in the lobby.

Selections from the Permanent Collection, 1 pm

Free Films: Global Lens, 1 and 8 pm

Margarette's Feast (A Feste de Margarette), 1 pm (student matinee)

Directed by Renato Falcão

Making dazzling use of Brazilian music, intentionally under-lit photography that superbly evokes the look of early silent films, exuberant acting styles, and a cast of characters spanning the social spectrum that would be the envy of Dickens or Balzac, *Margarette's Feast* tells the incredible story of an Everyman (Hique Gomez) who loses his job and comes into possession of a miraculous suitcase that never runs out of money. At once an homage to a glorious cinematic past and an audacious present that explores narrative and technique, the film plunges the viewer into a dramatic universe that initially seems familiar and then inexorably unsettling. 2002, Brazil, BW, 35mm, 70 minutes.

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Rachida, 8 pm

Directed by Yamina Bachir-Chouikh

Introduced by Amy Levine, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota

Presenting a brutal time in Algeria's history when both fundamentalist and government militias perpetuated crimes against the most vulnerable, *Rachida* is a moving story about a community—and, above all, about the women in it—under the threat of terror yet reaching out for hope, courage, and peace. *Rachida* shows great restraint in her struggle to stop the perpetual flow of violence within Algiers when she is approached to participate in a bombing. Her brave act of refusal puts her at risk for retaliation and alters the rest of her life. 2002, Algeria, color, in Arabic and French with English subtitles, 100 minutes.

This film is also the fourth program in the series War, Peace, and Resistance, which promotes international understanding and tolerance. A discussion follows.

Gallery Talk: What Do You See? Visual Perception and Jasper Johns, 6:30 pm

Meet in the lobby

Much of Jasper Johns' work revolves around notions of perception and "seeing." As an artist he is curious about how we see what we see, and why we see it that way—as a result of our own biology, psychology, and memory. This talk by psychoanalyst Judith Vida and exhibition curator Joan Rothfuss focuses on the psychological aspects of seeing and the ways that the artist approaches these questions.

January 22

Tours

Meet in the lobby.

Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983, 1 pm

Selections from the Permanent Collection, 6 pm

Free Film: Global Lens, 1 pm

Angel on the Right (Farishta y kitfi rost), 1 pm (student matinee)

Directed by Djamshed Usmonov

After 10 years in Moscow, down-and-out thug Hamro returns to his native village in Tajikistan to tend to his dying mother. Realizing that his debts are long overdue and the townspeople are as tough as the big city crowd he now runs with, he sells her house and belongings as quickly as possible. Tajik society's harsh social and political upheavals are reflected in the relationships between the film's characters. They are at once coarse, ruthless, dishonest, and manipulative, but have almost blind faith in ancestral laws of good and evil and strongly believe that miracles will occur to change their destiny. 2002, Tajikistan, color, 35mm in Tajik with English subtitles, 88 minutes.

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Free Verse: Pierre Joris and Nicole Peyrafitte, 7 pm

Auditorium

SUMERICABACHBONES is an evening of song, poetry, and imagery based on translations of dissident Iraqi poets. Avant-garde poet Pierre Joris and international visual and voice artist Nicole Peyrafitte meditate on the lives of ancient Sumerian women, the lives of contemporary nomads, dreamscapes, and desert lands.

Joris currently teaches poetry and poetics at SUNY-Albany. His book *Poasis: Selected Poems 1986-1999* was praised by *Rain Taxi* for "its physical, philosophical delight in words and their reverberations." Peyrafitte's performances combine voice, painting, drawing, collage, writing—and sometimes cooking. She has exhibited and performed her work throughout Europe and North America. Free Verse is cosponsored by *Rain Taxi Review of Books*.

January 29

Tours

Meet in the lobby.

Pop³: Oldenburg, Rosenquist, Warhol, 1 pm

Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983, 6 pm

Free Film: Global Lens, 8 pm

Mango Yellow (Amarelo Manga)

Directed by Cláudio Assis

Introduced by Fernando Arenas, Associate Professor of Portuguese, Brazilian, and Lusophone African Studies, University of Minnesota

In the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife, the seedy lives of a group of larger-than-life characters—a bereft barmaid, a flamingly gay chef, a macho butcher, and his born-again wife—mesh as they pursue romantic liaisons, scams, and unrealized dreams. Through their transgressive situations, director Cláudio Assis suggests a general malaise infecting Brazil: as their lives intersect and their destinies are revealed, it becomes apparent that the longing for a spiritual life is lacking throughout the favela. 2002, Brazil, color, 35mm, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 102 minutes. A discussion follows.

Free Thursdays are made possible by generous support from The Wallace Foundation.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.
For public information, call 612.375.7622.
<http://www.walkerart.org>**

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