



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**theatre KAPOW reads *Red* at the Currier Museum of Art
March 9, 2014**

theatre KAPOW continues the new ARTiculate Playreading Series in partnership with the Currier Museum of Art on Sunday, March 9 at 2 pm. The third reading is of John Logan's one-act play *Red*, read in relation to the painting *Untitled (Red Over Brown)*, by Mark Rothko, which is in the Currier's permanent collection and currently on view at the museum.

John Logan's *Red* won the Tony Award in 2010 for Best Play. Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York's famed Four Seasons Restaurant. In the two fascinating years that follow, Rothko works feverishly with his young assistant, Ken, in his studio on the Bowery. But when Ken gains the confidence to challenge him, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, *Red* is a searing portrait of an artist's ambition and vulnerability as he tries to create a definitive work for an extraordinary setting.

The paintings of Mark Rothko are among the most recognized works of the Abstract Expressionist movement. The work that hangs on the wall at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester has a very interesting story. Rothko presented *Untitled (Red over Brown)* to his physician, Albert W. Grokoest, in 1967. The artist had first contacted Grokoest in 1956, after other doctors had failed to properly diagnose a case of gout that had left him incapacitated for two months. Grokoest's treatment was effective, and Rothko discovered a kindred spirit who shared his love of music and art. Although Rothko tended to distrust doctors and other professionals, Grokoest became a personal friend and was the artist's primary physician until the end of his life.

Untitled (Red over Brown) hung in Grokoest's New York apartment along with Expressionist works by Egon Schiele and paintings by Alfred Maurer, Jan Lebenstein and a number of others. A native of Lincoln, New Hampshire, Grokoest bequeathed the painting to the Currier Museum of Art following his death in 1991. Today it remains a key work in the Museum's small but significant collection of Abstract Expressionism.

The ARTiculate Playreading Series gives audiences the opportunity to hear new or rarely produced plays that relate to special exhibitions at the Currier or objects or artists in the museum's permanent collection. Following each reading, there will be a discussion and then

audience members will have the opportunity to visit the galleries to view related artwork.

The reading of *Red* will feature tKAPOW regulars Peter Josephson, last seen in *Penelope*, as Mark Rothko and Glenn Provost, last seen in *Buried Child*, as Ken. Discussion will be led by Dr. Landis K. Magnuson, Professor of Theater at Saint Anselm College, and Leah Fox, Director of Interpretation and Audience Engagement at the Currier. The ARTiculate Playreading Series is supported by The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

Admission to the readings and participation in the discussions is free with museum admission (\$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$9 for students). **Passes for free admission to the museum** may be checked out from more than 90 public libraries across the state. Students, faculty and staff from seven area colleges also receive free admission to the museum.

About John Logan

John Logan was awarded the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Drama League awards for his play *Red*, which premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and the John Golden Theatre on Broadway. Mr. Logan is the author of more than a dozen other plays, including *Never the Sinner and Hauptmann*. His work as a screenwriter includes *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Golden Globe Award); *The Aviator* (Academy, Golden Globe, and Writers Guild of America award nominations); *Gladiator* (Academy, Golden Globe, and Writers Guild of America nominations); *The Last Samurai*; *Any Given Sunday* and *RKO 281* (Writers Guild of America Award, Emmy Award nomination).

About theatre KAPOW

theatre KAPOW (www.tkapow.com) develops ensemble productions of great dramatic literature to explore the human experience and inspire and challenge both artist and audience. tKAPOW places emphasis on the importance of rigorous formal training to develop an ensemble of skilled and dedicated theatre artists.

Now in its sixth season, tKAPOW has established a reputation for presenting important dramatic literature including productions by August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Sarah Ruhl, and Tony Kushner. tKAPOW also supports the development of new work through an annual 24 Hour Play Festival and an original performance piece in the spring. The editors of *New Hampshire Magazine* named theatre KAPOW the Best Contemporary Theatre in New Hampshire for 2013.

theatre KAPOW is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Visit www.tkapow.com to learn more.

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12. Wayne Asbury, Peter Josephson and Gina Carballo in theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series

at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

51. theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

151. Dr. Landis K. Magnuson leads a discussion at theatre KAPOW's ARTiculate Playreading Series at the Currier Museum of Art. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.