For Immediate Release

ARTIST PATTI SMITH TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS FOR THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Chicago, April 14—American poet, singer, songwriter, photographer, and visual artist Patti Smith will deliver the Commencement Address to the graduating students of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) on Saturday, May 21, at the Frank Gehry–designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago’s Millennium Park.

The body of work produced by Smith has influenced generations, across disciplines and around the world. Smith came into her own in the nascent cultural hotbed of mid-70s New York City as she merged poetry and rock in vital new ways. Her 1975 debut album, Horses, is routinely ranked as one of the greatest albums of all time. In 2007 she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2010 she won the National Book Award for Non-Fiction for Just Kids, a bestselling memoir about her early days in New York when she met, and made art with, her friend Robert Mapplethorpe.

Smith has honorary doctorate degrees from Rowan University and Pratt Institute, and will receive an honorary degree from SAIC along with filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul (SAIC MFA 1998)—winner of the 2010 Palme D’or at the Cannes Film Festival—and SAIC Chancellor Tony Jones, CBE, a former president of the school.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from around the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC’s resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures and performances. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu.

###