

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2010

Press Contact:

Sherrie Medina

312.899.1220 (office)

312.543.8608 (cell)

smedina@saic.edu



School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC) ANNOUNCES TWO ALUMNI
WIN TOP AWARDS AT THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2010

Chicago, IL — The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is proud to announce alumni **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** and **Hong Sang-soo** have won top awards at the esteemed Cannes Film Festival 2010.

The festival's highest honor, the Palme d'Or, went to "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives," directed by SAIC alumnus Apichatpong Weerasethakul (MFA 1998). His film is described as an original, surprising account of a dying man's spiritual, often fantastical experiences as he nears the end of his life. Apichatpong Weerasethakul's films have won past awards including a major Cannes Festival prize in 2002 for "Blissfully Yours," the 2004 Jury Prize and Tokyo FilmEx first prize for "Tropical Malady," and a major prize at the inaugural Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong for his latest film, "Syndromes and a Century" (2006), which was the first Thai film shown at the Venice Film Festival.

Claire Denis, president of the Un Certain Regard jury at the Cannes Film Festival announced that the top award goes to SAIC alumnus Hong Sang-soo's (MFA 1989) "Hahaha." "Hahaha" debuted in the Cannes fringe festival Un Certain category and tells the story of a drunken trip down memory lane as a filmmaker prepares to leave Korea to live in Canada. The *New York Times* describes his film as "a wistful, intricately structured comedy." Certain Regard films are not part of the main Cannes Film Festival competition, although *New York Times* writer Manohla Dargis states that "this section has consistently become a showcase for some of the strongest, most innovative and daring work at Cannes."

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, AND ANIMATION DEPARTMENT

The success of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Film, Video, New Media, and Animation Department is reflected in a list of alumni that includes such notable filmmakers and artists as Hong Sang-Soo, Paul Chan Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Orson Welles, Chris Ware, and Rirkrit Tiravanija. Media—whether film, video, or newer digital technologies—are not simply techniques, but, more broadly, the defining elements of our culture and society. The Film, Video, New Media, and Animation Department is at the center of formal experimentation and critical investigation in film and video. These distinguished histories are the foundations on which the Department was built as an interdisciplinary media production and studies program. For more information, please visit www.saic.edu/fvnm.

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 across the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC's educational philosophy is built upon a multidisciplinary 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

###