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## **VCCA KICKS OFF 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT VMFA**

**Amherst, VA (November 11, 2010)** – One of the nation’s leading artist residencies, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), kicks off a year-long series of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations with a January 8 event at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Va. The event begins at 6 p.m. and will feature dinner, dancing, an auction and special recognition of VCCA Advisory Council Member and one of Virginia’s most celebrated contemporary artists, Sally Mann. Senator Mark R. Warner and Lisa Collis are chairs of the year-long celebration. Honorary chairs of the January 8 event are VMFA Director Alex Nyerges and his wife, Kathryn Gray.

“For 40 years, VCCA has awarded fellowships to more than 4,000 of this century’s most exceptional writers, composers and visual artists,” said Senator Warner. “VCCA is a national treasure. When you consider the award-winning work that artists have produced while in residence at the Center, it is clear that VCCA has served as an incubator for some truly great art.”

Located in Amherst, Va., VCCA is one of the foremost working retreats for writers, artists and composers, and one of the few with locations on two continents. Each year, more than 350 artists from around the world visit the VCCA campus to further their art. VCCA Fellows have won nearly every major artistic distinction, including the Pulitzer Prize, Grammy, Guggenheim Fellowship, Rome Prize, National Book Award, Academy Award nomination, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Founded in Charlottesville in 1971, the VCCA is supported in large part by grants and private donations. Guided by the conviction that art nourishes individuals and civilization, the Center provides a supportive environment in a residential setting for superior national and international visual artists, writers and composers of all cultural and economic backgrounds to pursue their creative work.

For more information, or to purchase tickets to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick-off event, please visit the VCCA website at [www.vcca.com](http://www.vcca.com).

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