

APRIL 28, 2010
PRESS

MEDIA CONTACT
Connie McAllister
Communications and Marketing Manager
Tel 713 284 8255
cmcallister@camh.org

**ALWAYS FRESH
ALWAYS FREE**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present the group exhibition *Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft*

*Hand+Made:
The Performative Impulse
in Art and Craft*
May 15–July 25, 2010

Opening Reception
Friday, May 14, 2010
7–10pm

Artists/Scholars Talk
Saturday, May 15, 2010
2pm

HOUSTON, TX (April 28, 2010)—*Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft* is a dynamic group exhibition that explores the innovative means by which artists continue to expand the traditional boundaries of art and craft. Through the integration of performance, the artists featured in this exhibition have broadened the context of craft for contemporary times. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston will present sculptural objects, environments, and site-specific installations along with photography and video, documenting performances, as well as a series of live performance events.

Performance and the incorporation of spectacle in the works featured becomes a catalyst toward the creation of new forms that challenge the traditional ideas of art rooted in the handmade. Participating artists include the collaborative group B Team, Conrad Bakker, Nick



Lauren Kalman, *Hard Wear, (Tongue Gilding)*, 2006. Digital print laminated on acrylic. 23 x 35 inches. Courtesy the artist

CAMH



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006-6547

Tel 713 284 8250
Fax 713 284 8275
www.camh.org

Cave, Cat Chow, Sonya Clark, Gabriel Craig, Theaster Gates, Cynthia Giachetti, Ryan Gothrup, Sabrina Gschwandtner, Lauren Kalman, Christy Matson, James Melchert, Yuka Otani, Sheila Pepe, Michael Rea, Anne Wilson, Saya Woolfalk, and Bohyun Yoon.

The artists in this exhibition have either sought to animate the handmade object by using it as an instrument of performance; deepen the impact of the object by broadening its interpretation through public interventions and interactive objects; or, through objects that are created as residual of public performances. Collectively, they embody the unconventional within their respective fields, breaking new ground into areas of presentation, representation, and meaning.

Hand+Made features several new works, including a Book of the Month Club series of exchangeable sculpture by Conrad Bakker; a new series of Soundsuits by Nick Cave; two site-specific installations; and performances by Gabriel Craig, Theaster Gates, Cynthia Giachetti, and Anne Wilson. Performance event highlights include a lecture-demonstration by Nick Cave; public interventions by Pro Bono Jeweler Gabriel Craig, in various locations throughout the city; knitting nights for audiences to unravel the installation created by Sheila Pepe; a restaging of a 1972 happening by pioneering ceramic artist James Melchert; an endurance performance by Anne Wilson in collaboration with Hope Stone Dance Company; and a musical performance by Theaster Gates with a local Houston choir co-presented by the Houston Museum of African American Culture. The exhibition will close with a performance/ceremony by Cynthia Giachetti. The Museum will use web-streaming to share these events with broader audiences.

The exhibition, curated by CAMH Curator Valerie Cassel Oliver, consists of twenty works created using materials that range from fiber to glass and wood to metal. *Hand+Made* breaks new ground on the current dialogue surrounding practices within art, craft, and design, through the lens of performance.

PUBLICATION

Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft is organized by Valerie Cassel Oliver, curator for the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. The publication includes contributions by Cassel Oliver, as well as guest contributors, Namita Gupta Wiggers, curator, Museum of Contemporary Craft Portland, Oregon, and Glenn Adamson, Head of Graduate Studies, Research Department, Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The catalogue will also include an exhibition checklist, color reproductions of featured works, and artists' biographies and a general bibliography. The publication is designed by Don Quaintance of Public Address Design and distributed by Distributed Art Publishers (D.A.P.).

The catalogue is made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All events are free and open to the public, and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check www.camh.org.

Opening reception

Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft

Friday, May 14, 7-10pm

This dynamic group exhibition showcases artists who have broadened the definition of the handmade through the incorporation of performance. Reception with cash bar.

Artists/Scholars Talk: *Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft*

Saturday, May 15, 2pm

Discover more about this show with exhibiting artists and curator Valerie Cassel Oliver, who will lead a gallery walk-through.

Performance: *Wind-Up: Walking the Warp*

Sunday, May 16, 12-5pm

Join us for a two-part performance of Anne Wilson's *Wind-Up: Walking the Warp* in conjunction with *Hand+Made*. Wilson will partner with local dance ensemble Hope Stone Dance to restage this conceptual choreographic work based upon weaving. In an endurance work, dancers literally walk the warp of a 17-foot long stainless steel frame, threading as they skillfully move in and out of the warp. The second part will be performed on Sunday, June 27, 12-5pm.

Loft Concert: Musiqa

Thursday, May 20, 6:30pm

Hand+Made inspires the selection of music presented by Musiqa, a contemporary music group that takes a fresh look at the concert experience.

Artists/Scholars Talk: Nick Cave*

Thursday, May 27, 6:30pm

*Special location: Brown Auditorium, The Caroline Wiess Law Building, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet Street

Nick Cave is an artist, performer, and educator whose series of Soundsuits, wearable sculptures that make sounds when worn, exemplify a confluence of performance and visual art. Currently the director of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's graduate fashion program, this visionary sculptor and former dancer for Alvin Ailey brings his Soundsuits to life in a performance/lecture. Cosponsored by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Crochet & Cocktails

Thursday, June 3, 6:30-8pm

Over the duration of *Hand+Made*, artist Sheila Pepe invites the audience to help unravel her site-specific installation *Common Sense II* (2010), a sculpture made of crocheted yarn. Enjoy a specialty cocktail as you convert her artwork into your own functional pieces: cozies, mittens, pot holders, scarves, etc.

Hands on Houston*

Saturday, June 5, 11am-3pm

*Special location: Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St.

In conjunction with *Hand+Made*, CAMH's Teen Council leads a workshop at this organization founded

to advance education about the process, product, and history of craft.

Family Day

Sunday, June 6, 1-4pm

Art+Craft+Performance=An afternoon of limitless creative fun for the whole family! Enjoy hands-on art activities inspired by the exhibition *Hand+Made*. All activities are free and art supplies are provided.

Artists/Scholars Talk: Gwynne Rukenbrod

Thursday, June 10, 6:30pm

Gwynne Rukenbrod, curator of fine craft at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, will lead a discussion about *Hand+Made*.

Performance: Changes

Saturday, June 12, 2pm

Internationally renowned ceramist James Melchert will restage *Changes*, a "happening" that has not been performed since 1972. Melchert will work with local artists in this meditative performance that involves wet clay slip and its effects upon the body. This performance is held in conjunction with *Hand+Made*.

Crochet & Cocktails

Thursday, June 24, 6:30-8pm

Over the duration of *Hand+Made*, artist Sheila Pepe invites the audience to help unravel her site-specific installation *Common Sense II* (2010), a sculpture made of crocheted yarn. Enjoy a specialty cocktail as you convert her artwork into your own functional pieces: cozies, mittens, pot holders, scarves, etc.

Performance: Wind-Up: Walking the Warp

Sunday, June 27, 12-5pm

Join us for the second in a two-part performance of Anne Wilson's *Wind-Up: Walking the Warp* in conjunction with *Hand+Made*. Wilson will partner with local dance ensemble Hope Stone Dance to restage this conceptual choreographic work based upon weaving. In an endurance work, dancers literally walk the warp of a 17-foot long stainless steel frame, threading as they skillfully move in and out of the warp.

Crochet & Cocktails

Thursday, July 8, 6:30-8pm

Over the duration of *Hand+Made*, artist Sheila Pepe invites the audience to help unravel her site-specific installation *Common Sense II* (2010), a sculpture made of crocheted yarn. Enjoy a specialty cocktail as you convert her artwork into your own functional pieces: cozies, mittens, pot holders, scarves, etc.

Performance: Theaster Gates*

Saturday, July 17, 2pm

*Special location: TBD

Artist Theaster Gates performs *A Closer Walk with Thee* (2010), a choral piece that is part of his installation for *Hand+Made*. Gates creates, in his own words, “sculpture, performance, space, and friendship.” In *Dave: A Legendary Black Clay Superhero* and *A Closer Walk with Thee* (both 2010 and on view at CAMH), Gates provides a stage for his own music inspired by the writings of Dave the Potter, a slave born in South Carolina at the beginning of the nineteenth century who made pots for the plantation he served. Using the words Dave inscribed on the necks of the pots—his name, biblical verses, and couplets—Gates has created a choral piece, with lyrics in call-and-response form, with Dave’s prompts and Gates’s replies. The installation of *A Closer Walk with Thee* consists of speakers and a turntable, both made of porcelain, which play a recording of the piece. Gates will be joined by a Houston choir for his live performance. Co-presented by the Houston Museum of African American Culture.

Performance: Flower Ceremony

Sunday, July 24, 2-3pm

Celebrate the closing of *Hand+Made* with a performance by Cynthia Giachetti. Integrating junk-shop objects— rusted forks, spoons, knives, finials— into her own handmade ceramics, Giachetti creates sculptures that invoke a spiritual reverence for death and a sense of gratitude for what exists and what can be experienced. For her performance, *Flower Ceremony* (2010), the artist will give away the flowers from *Still Life* (2010), a massive ceramic chandelier created for the exhibition made up of many floral elements.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Hand+Made: The Performative Impulse in Art and Craft is made possible by generous support from the Union Pacific Foundation. This exhibition and its related programs are sponsored by Sara and Bill Morgan. The exhibitions in the Brown Foundation Gallery have been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to the Museum's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron—Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Fayez Sarofim, Michael Zilkha; Patrons—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Elisa and Cris Pye, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Leigh and Reggie Smith; Benefactors—City Kitchen Catering, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jackson Hicks / Jackson and Company, Marley Lott, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc., Swift + Company, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wilson; Donors—Baker Botts, L.L.P., Bergner and Johnson Design, Susie and Sanford Criner, Elizabeth Howard Crowell, Marita and J.B. Fairbanks, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Mr. and Mrs. William Goldberg / Bernstein Global Wealth Management, Louise D. Jamail, King & Spalding L.L.P., KPMG, LLP, Judy and Scott Nyquist, Lauren Rottet, David I. Saperstein, Scurlock Foundation, Karen and Harry Susman, John and Becca Cason Thrash, and Martha Claire Tompkins.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Baker Botts L.L.P., Baker Hughes Foundation, Ruth Dreessen, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Nordstrom, Inc., and 20K Group, LLC.

Teen Council is supported by Baker Hughes Foundation and Baker Botts L.L.P.

GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum’s operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum’s trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc.,

the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, National Endowment for the Arts, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

Continental Airlines is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston’s Museum District. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm Thursdays to 9pm, and Sundays noon to 5pm. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.