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March 22, 2011

Fact Sheet
“40 under 40: Craft Futures”

Exhibition

“40 under 40: Craft Futures”
July 20, 2012 – Feb. 3, 2013

Where

Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum
Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.

Description

“40 under 40: Craft Futures” features 40 artists born since 1972, the year the museum’s contemporary craft and decorative arts program was established at its branch museum, the Renwick Gallery. The exhibition investigates evolving notions of craft within traditional media such as ceramics and metalwork, as well as in fields as varied as sculpture, industrial design, installation art, fashion design, sustainable manufacturing and mathematics. The range of disciplines represented illustrates new avenues for the handmade in contemporary culture.

“40 under 40: Craft Futures” is presented in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Renwick Gallery. Nicholas R. Bell, curator at the museum’s Renwick Gallery, selected the artists and is organizing the exhibition. The museum intends to acquire works by every artist in the exhibition for the permanent collection to mark the anniversary. The artists included in the exhibition originate from every region of the United States and five countries. The exhibition will tour nationally after it closes in Washington, D.C.

The public can join the conversation about the exhibition on Twitter by following @americanart and using #Renwick40. A list of the 40 artists selected for the exhibition and links to their artworks is available on the museum’s website.

Publication

A catalog is forthcoming. It will be written by Bell with contributions by Bernard L. Herman, the George B. Tindall Professor of American studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Michael Prokopow, associate professor, faculty of liberal studies at Ontario College of Art and Design; and Julia Bryan-Wilson, associate professor of art history at the University of California, Irvine.

Credit

Fleur Bresler, the Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation Endowment and the James Renwick Alliance generously support “40 under 40: Craft Futures.”

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metro stations: Farragut North and Farragut West. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Website: americanart.si.edu.

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