



Media only: Courtney Rothbard (202) 633-8496; rothbardc@si.edu
Media website: americanart.si.edu/pr/renwick

July 28, 2015

Fact Sheet

New Installation of Contemporary Craft From the Permanent Collection at the Renwick Gallery

Exhibition

New installation of contemporary craft from the permanent collection
July 1, 2016 – permanent

Where

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

Description

The Renwick Gallery's second-floor galleries will feature a dynamic new installation of objects from the museum's permanent collection of contemporary craft following a major two-year renovation (2014–2015) of the Renwick building. The installation is organized by Nora Atkinson, the Lloyd Herman Curator of Craft at the museum.

The installation comprises about 90 artworks ranging from 1936 to 2015 encompassing numerous craft media and disciplines. Eleven new acquisitions, including John Grade's "Shoal (Bone Shoal Sonance)," Judith Schaechter's "The Birth of Eve" and Akio Takamori's "Woman and Child" will be presented alongside iconic objects from the collection, such as Wendell Castle's "Ghost Clock," Karen LaMonte's "Reclining Dress Impression with Drapery" and Lenore Tawney's "Box of Falling Stars."

Atkinson's presentation breaks from typical methods of categorization by medium or date and instead is based on an associative approach, inspired by the ways in which people navigate and gather information on the Internet through hyperlinks connecting often seemingly unrelated pieces of data. The arrangement, a network of artworks linked to one another through categories such as relationships between makers, geography, conceptual similarities, influences and techniques, is designed to mimic an analog version of the Web. Visitors can use curatorial text, carefully arranged sightlines and strategic proximity among objects to draw implicit and explicit connections, as well as to create narratives of their own. The installation reflects new ways of thinking about objects, encouraging a multiplicity of interpretations and approaches at a time when the definitions of craft are expanding and when the boundaries between craft, art and design are increasingly blurred.

Publication

Craft for a Modern World: The Renwick Gallery Collection, an illustrated catalog written by Atkinson and published by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in association with D. Giles Ltd., London, is forthcoming.

Credit

The installation is supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and the Windgate Charitable Foundation.

The Renwick Gallery is the Smithsonian American Art Museum's branch for contemporary craft and decorative arts. The Renwick is located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W. and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25). Admission is free. Follow the museum on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Tumblr](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [iTunes U](#) and [ArtBabble](#). Smithsonian information: (202) 633-1000. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Website: americanart.si.edu.

###