

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Rebecca Burrell, External Relations Specialist  
PNCA and MoCC  
503.821.8959 | rburrell@pnca.edu

Becca Biggs, Director of Communications  
PNCA and MoCC  
503.821. 8892 | bbiggs@pnca.edu

**Museum of Contemporary Craft explores material phenomena and process through film**

*Elusive Matter features short films by artists Jane Aaron, Mark Hursty and Lauren Kalman*

***Elusive Matter***

On view November 19, 2009 – January 16, 2010  
Museum of Contemporary Craft  
in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art

**PORTLAND, OR—November 5, 2009**—Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art announces *Elusive Matter*, a new exhibition using film and photography to explore craft-based media, on view beginning November 19. *Elusive Matter* challenges common expectations that craft results in a physical object. Using film's ability to capture time and space, the works on view by artists Jane Aaron, Mark Hursty and Lauren Kalman focus on material phenomena and abstract process rather than on form. Individually, the works reveal playful, mesmerizing and disturbing glimpses of the way matter performs.

*Elusive Matter* features a short film or video from each artist, accompanied by one photograph each by Hursty and Kalman. *Traveling Light* (1985), a stop animation film by Jane Aaron uses bits of paper to convey the movement of light through interior space. In *El Mort de la Massa* (2008), Mark Hursty turns a lively game with glass into a visually compelling and moving linear drawing. Lauren Kalman uses her film *Hard Wear (Tongue Gilding)* (2006) to explore the culturally charged issues surrounding body, adornment and gold as a material luxury. Collectively, the work of *Elusive Matter* reminds us of the ways in which craft can be engaged outside of the physical creation of an object.

This exhibition includes an essay written by Kate Mondloch, assistant professor of contemporary art history and theory, University of Oregon, to be available in the exhibition gallery and online.

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#### **ABOUT JANE AARON**

A former Guggenheim Fellow and an Emmy award winner, Jane Aaron has been a central figure within the field of animation for over 30 years. Her work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Biennial and the Film Forum, New York, as well as the New York Film Festival and the Telluride Film Festival, Colorado, as well as many other venues. She has been invited to serve as a visiting artist at such institutions as California Institute of the Arts and the Rhode Island School of Design.

#### **ABOUT MARK HURSTY**

Mark Hursty holds a BFA in film animation from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in Glass from Alfred University. Hursty has exhibited work in the U.S., the Netherlands and China. He has assisted with and taught glass workshops at Pilchuck Glass School and several universities in China. Hursty is currently a visiting assistant professor and head of the glass program at Jacksonville University, Florida. He was also an award winner at the 2008 Glass Art Society International Student Exhibition.

#### **ABOUT LAUREN KALMAN**

Multimedia artist Lauren Kalman is currently a faculty member at both Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design. She holds an MFA in Art and Technology from The Ohio State University and a BFA in Metals from Massachusetts College of Art. Her work can be found in the permanent collection of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, among other institutions. Her work has been highlighted in national publications including *Metalsmith* magazine, *Style.com* and *American Craft* (October/November 2009).

#### **ABOUT MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFT**

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art is one of Oregon's oldest cultural institutions. Centrally located in Portland's Pearl District, the Museum is nationally acclaimed for its curatorial program and is a vibrant center for investigation and dialogue, expanding the definition of craft and the way audiences experience it.

Visit the Museum online at [www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org](http://www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org).

**NOTE TO THE MEDIA:** With the opening of *Elusive Matter* on November 19, 2009, Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art will charge a \$3 general admission fee to adults over the age of 12. Read the full admissions policy here: [http://www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org/info\\_about.php](http://www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org/info_about.php)

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724 NW Davis Street  
Portland, OR 97209  
503.223.2654  
[www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org](http://www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org)

**Hours**

Tuesday through Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM  
First Thursday of every month 11 AM to 8 PM  
Closed Sunday and Monday

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These images are available as high resolution JPEG files at our online press center: [www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org/presscenter](http://www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org/presscenter)



1. Lauren Kalman, *Lip Adornment*, 2006; Inkjet print; 23 x 30 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Sienna Gallery

2. Lauren Kalman, *Hard Wear (Tongue Gilding)*, 2006; LCD/DVD player with looping DVD; Approximate running time: 2.5 minutes; Courtesy of the artist and Sienna Gallery

3. Mark Hursty, *Installation view, Shelter*, 2008; Digital print; 60 x 30 inches; Courtesy of the artist

*Captions for other films in the exhibition:*

Jane Aaron, *Traveling Light*, 1985; Looping DVD; Approximate running time: 2 minutes; Courtesy of MoMA, Circulating Film Library

Mark Hursty; *El Mort de la Massa*, 2008; Looping DVD; Approximate running time: 3 minutes; Courtesy of the artist

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