

20 November 2007
Contact: Wendy Miller, Director of Communications
971.255.5514, Wendy@MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org
Portland, Oregon

FRAMING · THE ART OF JEWELRY

On view at Museum of Contemporary Craft January 19, 2008 – May 11, 2008

The genesis of this exhibition comes from *Metalsmith Magazine's* annual *Exhibition in Print*, curated in 2007 by internationally known design curator Ellen Lupton and published by the Society of North American Goldsmiths. Museum of Contemporary Craft is excited to present this work as one component of a multi-faceted investigation of art jewelry that, at once, acknowledges the growing interdependence in the visual practices of art, craft and design, and poses theoretical questions about the way contemporary art jewelry is presented for the public to experience.

For example, how is the distance from the viewer negotiated between objects appearing on a printed page versus those installed in a Museum setting? Art jewelry is made with a relationship to the body in mind, yet is often shared with audiences in formats that do not create opportunity for physical interactivity. With *Framing · The Art of Jewelry*, the Museum juxtaposes this exquisitely curated selection of objects - presented on pedestals, under vitrines and in print - with a distinctly different experience of art jewelry. *Touching Warms the Art* (January 19 – March 23, 2008) is a juried selection of international art jewelers that welcomes audiences to touch and try on the pieces, thereby fully activating them as the artists intended. The Museum's simultaneous pairing of these exhibitions broadens the audience's perception of art jewelry - allowing for precious awe and separation as well as direct engagement and play – and creates an awareness and new understanding of art jewelry that, up until now, only collectors of art jewelry have had the opportunity to experience.

Artists featured in this exhibition include:

Harriete Estel Berman · Melanie Bilenker · Alexander Blank · Kristine Bolhuis · Helen Britton · Sigurd Bronger · Angela Bubash · Betty Cooke · Marilyn da Silva · Donna D'Aquino · Iris Eichenberg · Diane Falkenhagen · Angela Gleason · Linda Kaye-Moses · Susan Kingsley · Esther Knobel · Steven & William Ladd · Victoria Lansford · Seung-Hea Lee · Keith Lo Bue · Louise McClure · Bruce Metcalf · Maria Nuutinen · Ruudt Peters · Karen Pontoppidan · Sharon Portelance · Lauren Schlossberg · Deganit Stern Schocken · Nicola Scholz · Constanze Schreiber · Jill Schwartz · Sam Shaw · Sondra Sherman · Kiff Slemmons · Barb Smith · Bettina Speckner · Johan Van Aswegen · Lisa Walker · Lynda Watson · Pauline Wiertz · Roberta & David Williamson · Liaung Chung Yen

Support for this exhibition provided in part by: Malloy's Jewelry Workshop

Namita Gupta Wiggers - curator at Museum of Contemporary Craft - will lead exhibition tours at the Museum at noon, Tuesday, January 22 and at noon, Tuesday, February 19.

Arline Fisch – an artist who works in the genres of jewelry, metal and clothing - will deliver the lecture *Elegant Fantasy: A Journey through Textile Techniques in Metal* at the Museum on Thursday, January 24 as part of the *Excellence in Craft* lecture series.

Ellen Lupton – design curator and the curator of *Framing · The Art of Jewelry* - will deliver a lecture on Thursday, March 20 at Pacific Northwest College of Art as part of the *Excellence in Craft* lecture series and also lead a *DIY Kids Day* at the Museum on Saturday, March 22.

For more information about this exhibition and related Museum programming; to schedule an interview with an exhibiting artist, the exhibition curator or Museum staff; or for access to press images, please contact Wendy Miller (contact information listed at the top of this page).

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft is one of Oregon's oldest cultural institutions. Centrally located at an expansive new site on Portland's North Park Blocks, the Museum is a vibrant center for investigation and dialogue, expanding the definition of craft and the way audiences experience it. Here, craft is engaged as a verb as well as a noun, pondering what it means to "craft" something. Questions are posed, conversations ignited by curated exhibitions and thoughtful publications. Educational programs and special events create an additional layer of engagement, and The Gallery - the region's premier retail destination for the very best in contemporary craft - provides visitors with the opportunity to extend the museum experience into everyday life. With a commitment to being accessible, admission to the Museum is by donation only.

724 Northwest Davis Street | Portland, Oregon 97209 | 503.223.2654

Museum of Contemporary Craft