

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Leading craft theorist Glenn Adamson to present first lectures in Oregon

### ***Craft in the 21st Century: Directions and Displacements***

A lecture by writer, researcher, educator and instigator Glenn Adamson

Friday, Feb. 20, 4 PM | Free  
University of Oregon, 211 Lillis, 955 E 13th Ave., Eugene  
*University of Oregon Department of Art Davis Lecture*

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2:30 PM | Free  
University of Oregon, White Stag Building Event Room, 70 NW Couch St., Portland  
*Co-sponsored by Museum of Contemporary Craft, CraftPerspectives Series and  
University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts*

**PORTLAND, OR — February 3, 2009** — International leader in art historical study Glenn Adamson will visit Oregon for the first time, traveling from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, on Feb. 20 and 21. Adamson will present *Craft in the 21st Century: Directions and Displacements* at the University of Oregon campus in Eugene and at the UO in Portland White Stag Block facility. The lectures are co-sponsored by UO and Museum of Contemporary Craft.

Glenn Adamson is head of graduate studies and deputy head of research at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. His focus of research ranges from modern craft and industrial design to English and American decorative arts during the 17th and 18th centuries. Adamson is the author of *Thinking Through Craft* (V&A Publications/Berg) and an editor of the *Journal of Modern Craft* (Berg).

Glenn Adamson is hailed by writer and historian Garth Clark as “one of craft’s fresh, young, nontraditional voices.” He proposes that craft is not a subcategory of art, but rather its antithesis, challenging art’s most fundamental values. Framing the discussion broadly throughout contemporary aesthetic culture, Adamson will provide context for a range of visual practitioners – including fine artists, designers, architects, historians and indie crafters.

- more -

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# Museum of Contemporary Craft



Image courtesy Glenn Adamson  
This image is available as a high resolution JPEG at  
[www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org/presscenter](http://www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org/presscenter)

Adamson's first presentation will take place Friday, Feb. 20, at University of Oregon's Eugene campus at 4 PM in room 211 of the Lillis Business Complex, 955 E 13th Ave. Adamson's presentation will be part of the Davis Lecturer program, which brings outstanding contemporary artists to meet with students at the UO campus and deliver public lectures. The Davis Lecturer is supported by a gift from the Gaylord and Judy Davis family. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In Portland, on Saturday, Feb. 21, Museum of Contemporary Craft presents Adamson as the newest lecturer for its CraftPerspectives Series, an ongoing program that connects audiences with new ways to think critically about craft. Co-sponsored by UO's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Glenn Adamson will speak at 2:30 PM at the UO's White Stag Block in Old Town Portland at 70 NW Couch St. Admission is free.

The Portland lecture will be preceded by a discussion session at 6:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 12, to review Adamson's recent book *Thinking Through Craft*. This conversation will take place at The Lab at Museum of Contemporary Craft and is free and open to the public. The session will be led by Kate Wagle, a UO professor of art and administrative director of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts' programs in Portland. Please contact [education@MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org](mailto:education@MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org) for a free copy of the excerpt to be discussed.

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

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft 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).

#### **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**

The University of Oregon is a world-class teaching and research institution and Oregon's flagship public university. The UO is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an organization made up of the 62 leading public and private research institutions in the United States and Canada. The University of Oregon is one of only two AAU members in the Pacific Northwest.

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