

MUSEUM OF ART

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

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**The RISD Museum of Art Presents
*After You're Gone, an Installation by Beth Lipman***

Friday, August 22, 2008 to Sunday, January 18, 2009

Providence, RI—This summer, The RISD Museum presents a special commissioned installation by artist Beth Lipman to create a site-specific work in its lower Farago Gallery based on her unique approach to reinterpreting older art forms in glass. Known for her contemporary takes on the still life painting, Lipman has explored this subject by creating three-dimensional renditions of this genre, transforming the compositions into glass often recalling religious and historical symbolism. For the Museum, she creates an installation inspired by a museum period room. During her visits to the Museum the artist was drawn to the galleries in Pendleton House, the American decorative arts collection housed in a purpose-built 1906 neo-Georgian house. Period rooms are fully furnished and decorated domestic interiors meant to trace the history and styles of a particular time—often demonstrating the highest level of wealth from that era. Lipman created parts of the installation working with RISD Glass department students during a residency in March 2008.

Entitled “After You’re Gone,” Lipman’s installation will fill the Farago gallery of the Museum. The exhibition features wallpaper inspired by a historic pattern in the museum’s collection, abstracted portraits, topiaries, molding, and a full-sized double settee derived from one owned by Charles Pendleton—all made of glass. In addition, a work called *Still Life with Metal Pitcher*, 2007 will take center stage. This round table spills over with glass food, decanters, dishes, and other objects representing a bountiful feast. Some of the symbolic creatures found in still life paintings will inhabit this display. Lipman has created 800 glass snails—several hundred crawling on the table itself and another 500 traversing the gallery’s crevices and nooks.

“The period room is kind of an expansion of the idea of the still life, of compulsively displaying who we are by what’s around us,” she said. Drawing from the collection of furniture, wallpaper, silver, china, paintings and other objects, Lipman has created out of glass her own dramatic interior space reflecting the themes of affluence, material consumption, excess, and decay. Lipman’s interpretation will have traces of the macabre including convex portraits made of black glass and a “bastardized” version of Museum wallpaper that drips into black slivers.

Calling glass, “a frustrating medium,” in which to work because of its delicate and dangerous nature, Lipman said she hopes her display will call into question “what is beautiful, what is original, whether that matters, and how it relates to mortality.” Unlike her recent works, which have focused on the banquet and the idea of the feast, this installation with its settee and double

portraits suggests a more intimate gathering has taken place and that “what remains” is the result of a relationship between two people.

Beth Lipman studied at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and holds a B.F.A. from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. Her work has been reviewed by *ArtNews*, *The New York Times*, *Glass Magazine* and *American Craft Magazine*. Lipman recently received a Wisconsin Arts Board Fellowship and she was the recipient of the 2006 Young Talent Award from UrbanGlass. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and Canada. Her work is included in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; the Speed Museum, Louisville, KY and the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY; as well as private collections nationwide.

PROGRAMMING

Tuesday Talks Lecture Series: Glass

Tuesday, October 21, 1 pm

Tina Oldknow, Curator of Modern Glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, gives the first of three lectures in the series: “Seeing Through Mass: Glass Architecture and Its Metaphors.” A group of Berliners who shared utopian ideas in the early 20th century, along with other pioneers of modern architecture, became the inspiration for innovative glass buildings in the early 1990s by well-known architects Rem Koolhaas, I. M. Pei, and Zaha Hadid, among others. The fee is \$15 per lecture (\$35 for 3-lecture series continuing on November 4 and December 9); free to members. To register or for more information, contact Deb Clemons at 401 454-6530 or dclemons@risd.edu.

Artist Lecture: Beth Lipman

Thursday, November 13, 6:30 pm

The Chace Center, Metcalf Auditorium

In connection to her exhibition *After You're Gone*, artist Beth Lipman will speak about hand sculpted glass, her interest in the arts and crafts from previous eras, and her newest site specific installation created for the RISD Museum.

The RISD Museum of Art, a world-class museum in Providence, RI, was founded as part of Rhode Island School of Design in 1877. Its permanent collection of more than 84,000 objects includes paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, costume, furniture, and other works of art from every part of the world, including objects from Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and art of all periods from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, up to the latest in contemporary art. In addition, the Museum offers a wide array of educational and public programs.

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm; third Thursday of the month until 9pm. Admission: \$8 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens; \$2 for ages 5-18; \$3 for college students with valid ID. Free: Friday, 12-1:30pm; Sunday, 10am-1pm; third Thursday of the month, 5-9pm; and Free-For-All Saturday (last Saturday of the month). Information: 401-454-6500 or www.risdmuseum.org. 224 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Reporters, please contact Matt Montgomery at 401/454-6793 or mmontgom@risd.edu to arrange a visit to the exhibition, interviews, or to request exhibition images for reproduction.

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