

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Living Room

On view at Museum of Contemporary Craft October 11, 2007 – March 23, 2008

Challenging notions of how a museum typically presents its collection, *The Living Room* re-contextualizes objects from the Museum's collection within a contemporary domestic setting. The exhibition examines a cultural trend in which vintage garage sale finds, modern classics and fine craft mingle within the twenty-first century home, resulting in an eclectic mix of historical periods and "high" and "low" art. Periodic rotations of objects throughout the duration of the exhibition will highlight different object relationships, as well as the resurgent interest in mid-century modern design, ornamentation and eco-consciousness.

The Museum's collection contains works by craft luminaries including Jack Lenor Larsen, Sam Maloof, Peter Voulkos, Marguerite Wildenhain, David Shaner, Victoria Avakian Ross, Ken Shores and Patti Warashina. This approach to displaying objects from the collection leads visitors to a heightened sensibility of recognizing craft in their daily lives. By bringing a domestic setting to the fore of observation and presenting objects from the Museum's collection on that platform, intersections between craft history and its influence on elements of contemporary design are recognized. A brochure with an essay by the Museum's curator, Namita Gupta Wiggers, accompanies this exhibition.

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft is one of Portland's oldest cultural institutions. Centrally located at an expansive new site on the city's North Park Blocks, the organization is a vibrant center for investigation and dialogue, expanding the definition of craft and the way audiences experience it. At the Museum, 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 provocative educational programs. Special events and publications create an additional layer of engagement, and The Gallery - Portland's retail destination for the very best in contemporary craft - provides visitors with the opportunity to extend the museum experience into their everyday lives.

With a value of being accessible, admission to the Museum is by donation only. The Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday 11AM-6PM, with extended hours every Thursday until 8PM.

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Museum of Contemporary Craft