

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Museum of Contemporary Craft designs a bright shopping experience for its annual handmade holiday sales

The Gallery and limited-time Holiday Shop present one-of-a-kind gifts December 3 – January 4

PORTLAND, OR—November 17, 2008—This holiday season, thoughtful shoppers will discover a new experience at Museum of Contemporary Craft’s highly anticipated holiday sales event. Expanding to over 3,000 square feet of retail space, the Museum presents the year’s most extensive offering of beautifully handcrafted objects, with works chosen through a more selective jury process than in years past. View one-of-a-kind art jewelry, fine glass, felt scarves, ceramics, winter hats, quilts, handmade wooden bowls, and beyond, by local, regional and nationally recognized artists.

Wednesday, December 3, The Museum’s upstairs Lab space transforms into the festive and playful Holiday Shop, a seasonal store furnished with a moving train by local artist Hilary Pfeifer and handmade works not ordinarily seen in The Gallery. Shoppers will find gifts by 50 artists for all ages and budgets. Offerings include a wide array of holiday ornaments, colorful clocks by Chris Giffin, wooden furniture and a choice selection of sale items.

“We’re very excited to feature in The Holiday Shop this season a limited edition of ornaments by John and Robin Gumaelius,” said John Reynolds, director, The Gallery at Museum of Contemporary Craft. “The Gumaelius’ ornaments have been one of our most popular holiday gifts for years. But when they informed us they were ready to phase them out, I knew I had to convince them to create one last edition for us this year. They drove the work down to us last week from their home and studio in Hoquiam, Washington. Fans will need to show up early; there won’t be any more once these are gone.”

Downstairs in The Gallery, visitors will find a holiday twist to the Gallery’s ongoing presentation of elegant jewelry, ceramics, glass, and more, by established local favorites including

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Museum of Contemporary Craft

Nicky Falkenhayn, Pat Horsley, Wally Schwab and Kicki Masthem. The Gallery provides finely crafted objects for the discerning shopper seeking to buy exceptional gifts or objects for a personal art collection. Visit The Gallery to find Portland's best selection of glass by Andy Paiko. Collect porcelain works by local artists Melissa Braden and Latvian-born Inguna Skuja, most of which will not be available after the pair move to Europe in 2009.

Proceeds from all gift sales directly fuel the Museum's operations and programming. That means shoppers will support the independent artists who created their gifts as well as this organization's efforts to enliven the museum experience and expand the definition of craft.

Holiday sales in The Gallery begin now. The Holiday Shop kicks off with a public preview reception Wednesday, December 3, 6:30–8:30 PM and lasts through January 4. Museum of Contemporary Craft members receive 10% savings on all items in both The Holiday Shop and The Gallery.

Regular shopping hours are 11 AM–6 PM Tuesday–Sunday and 11 AM–8 PM Thursday. The Museum will be open 11 AM–2 PM Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

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.

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Museum of Contemporary Craft

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



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All images courtesy of the artists

1. Barb Campbell, pitcher, 2008, stoneware
2. Andy Paiko, *Bell Jars*, 2008, blown glass and gold-plated objects
3. Laura Berman, individually titled keepsake boxes, 2008, hand-felted wool

4. Chris Giffin, *Mazda Auto Lamps Clock*, 2008, metal and mixed media
5. April Higashi, earrings, 2007, enamel, sterling silver and gold
6. Nancy Bryant, collage scarves, 2008, silk
7. Victoria Christen, mugs, 2008, terra cotta
8. Donna Dalton, *Flycatcher on Dragonfly*, 2008, carved and painted wood