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Renwick Craft Invitational 2009 Fact Sheet

Exhibition

Renwick Craft Invitational 2009
Aug. 7, 2009 – Jan. 3, 2010

Where

Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum
Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.

Description

The Renwick Craft Invitational 2009 is the fourth in a biennial exhibition series—established in 2000—that honors the creativity and talent of craft artists working today. The exhibition will feature the work of ceramic artist Christyl Boger, fiber artist Mark Newport, glass artist Mary Van Cline and ceramic artist SunKoo Yuh. The artists were chosen by Kate Bonansinga, director of the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso; Jane Milosch, Renwick Gallery curator; and Paul J. Smith, director emeritus of the Museum of Arts & Design. Bonansinga is the guest curator for the exhibition.

Boger (b. 1959), an assistant professor at Indiana University in Bloomington, creates large-scale gilded ceramic figurines that incorporate contemporary props. Newport (b. 1964), artist-in-residence and head of the fiber department at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., examines issues of masculinity through knitted superhero costumes. Van Cline (b. 1954), who lives and works in Seattle, uses plate glass and pâte de verre to construct sculptural pieces that often incorporate black-and-white photographs. Yuh (b. 1960), an associate professor at the University of Georgia in Athens, creates densely layered ceramic sculptures that explore complex issues of family, faith and community with Eastern and Western imagery.

Publication

A catalog with essays by Bonansinga and biographies for each artist will accompany the exhibition.

Credit

The Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation generously supports the Renwick Craft Invitational 2009.

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum is dedicated to exhibiting American crafts and decorative arts from the 19th through the 21st centuries. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metro stations: Farragut North (Red line) and Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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