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Oakland Museum of California Presents Exhibition Coinciding with 50th Anniversary of Studio Craft Glass in the United States

Exhibition Traces the Impact of California Studio Craft Glass

This release is available online at: www.museumca.org/pressroom

(OAKLAND, CA) August 13, 2012—The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) announces the presentation of a special exhibition celebrating the **golden anniversary** of the studio glass in the United States. Opening on **October 27, 2012**, and running through **March 24, 2013**, the exhibition ***Playing With Fire: Artists of the California Studio Glass Movement*** traces the **evolution** of **studio glass** in **California** from its **experimental beginnings** to the more **conceptual art** form it has become today. With the exhibition, **OMCA joins more than 120 museums nationwide** in marking the **50th anniversary** of the **Studio Glass Movement** in the United States—an effort spearheaded by the **Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass (AACG)**.

Presenting a total of **32 works** of art that showcase the work of the movement's **early artists** alongside the creations of some of the Bay Area's top **next-generation** artists, the exhibition provides a **sampling** of studio glass in California. Tracing the impact of the California Studio Glass Movement from its beginnings, the exhibition features work by **Marvin Lipofsky**—a student of movement founder **Harvey Littleton**—who established the glass programs at **U.C. Berkeley** and the **California College of Arts and Crafts**, and **Robert Fritz**, another student of Littleton's who founded the program at **San Jose State University**. In addition, **contemporary works** featured in the exhibition by artists such as Cassandra Straubing and Oben Abright reveal the more **recent influences** of place, landscape, and culture in California in glass art, including such themes as **migrant labor** and **urban dynamics**. In addition, a number of Lipofsky's and Fritz's students, such as **Richard Marquis**, **Jay Musler**, and **Mary White**—all of whom are now established artists in the Bay Area—are also featured in the exhibition, demonstrating the **progressive lineage of the movement in California**.

“Since its beginning 50 years ago, the studio glass movement in the United States has undergone an exciting evolution,” says **Julie Muñiz, OMCA Associate Curator of Design and Decorative Arts**. “OMCA's exhibition showcases some of the most **important Bay Area glass artists** to the movement. In addition, the exhibition illustrates how contemporary artists are doing more conceptual work—an **evolution of the**

movement that **references** not only the **maturity of the art form**, but the **overall progression of art** from just being **beautiful** to having more of a **statement behind it**," says Muñiz.

The **American Studio Glass movement** began with two glass workshops held at the **Toledo Museum of Art** in **1962**. The workshops were taught by **Harvey K. Littleton**, who, along with scientist **Dominick Labino**, introduced a small furnace built for glassworking that made it possible for individual artists to work in independent studios. Glass programs were then established by Littleton at the **University of Wisconsin**, at the **California College of the Arts** by **Marvin Lipofsky**, and later at the **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, led by artist **Dale Chihuly**, to name but a few.

Playing with Fire: Artists of the California Studio Glass Movement will be on view at the Oakland Museum of California, October 27, 2012, through March 24, 2013, in the **Gallery of California Art**. The exhibition is made possible in part through the generous support of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass and The Glass Alliance of Northern California.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

Meet the Curator: Playing with Fire

Sat, November 17, 2 pm

Meet OMCA Associate Curator of Design and Decorative Arts Julie Muñiz, and learn about artists who helped make the Bay Area a hotbed of California Art Glass movement.

OMCA Store, California Glass Show

Sat, November 17, 11 am – 5 pm

Just in time for holiday shopping, the OMCA Store presents an enticing collection of local glass artists featured in a glass show from 11 am to 5 pm. No admission fee required.

ABOUT THE ART ALLIANCE FOR CONTEMPORARY GLASS

The Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass (AACG) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to further the development and appreciation of art made from glass, has initiated more than 100 glass demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions that will take place in museums, galleries and art centers across the country throughout 2012. For more information, visit <http://contempglass.org>.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic, and social forces that affect the state and

investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. OMCA is situated between downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt. Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance. For more information, visit museumca.org.

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For more information and visuals, please contact:

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