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Museum of Contemporary Craft investigates the material and aural properties of glass with *Transference*, a collaborative sound installation

Glass artist Andy Paiko and sound artist Ethan Rose reinterpret the short-lived glass armonica

Transference

On view November 19, 2009 – January 9, 2010

I, OR—October 17, 2009—Museum of Contemporary Craft (MoCC) in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art presents *Transference*, an installation uniting glass with electronic composition. Portland-based artists Andy Paiko (glass) and Ethan Rose (sound/composition) collaborate to create a kinetic-sound installation reinterpreting the glass armonica, a nearly forgotten instrument. Through movement, light and music, *Transference* is an exploration of the material and aural properties of glass.

Ethan Rose is known for creating vast soundscapes with antiquated musical technologies. Through his installations, Rose calls attention to the physical experience of sound. Andy Paiko, a trained glass blower, creates intricate and delicate, but functional works—a glass scale, a spinning wheel—that challenge the meaning of form and function. A literal transference of ideas, of history and physicality, this exhibition represents a full collaboration at all stages of the design and fabrication processes. Paiko and Rose work together to select and place bowls in response to each vessel's natural aural qualities; in essence, making the glass the third collaborator in this project.

Transference is inspired in part by the glass armonica, an instrument popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Mozart and Bach, among many others, composed works for the instrument, while famous figures such as Benjamin Franklin and Marie Antoinette played it before it fell into obscurity. The armonica employed a series of glass bowls or goblets of vary-

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ing size, water and friction to create a sound evoking a “singing” wine glass.

This exhibition combines the strangely ethereal qualities of the armonica with the visual and physical sensations of dozens of spinning glass bowls, wired to rotate in an intentionally random sequence. Instead of applying a wet finger to the glass to create sound, this exhibition relies on a preprogrammed electronic composition to induce glass vibrations. The shifting composition will unfold continually and without repetition during the run of the installation.

“A bowl, or vessel, is one of the most familiar forms within the history of craft,” said Namita Gupta Wiggers, curator, MoCC. “Andy and Ethan reinterpret this age-old tool, merging craft and concept, and re-contextualizing history from a contemporary vantage point. They pull us out of ordinary expectations, making us re-think our experiences with common objects.”

This exhibition will be accompanied by an essay written by East Coast musician, artist and writer Rebecca Gates, and an introduction by Namita Wiggers. A series of public programs will provide context and an alternate access point to the exhibition.

ABOUT ANDY PAIKO

A glass artist living in Portland, Oregon, Andy Paiko is best known for ambitious, technical works examining the tension between form and function – including a working spinning wheel made entirely of glass. He has been featured in national publications including *ELLE*, *House and Garden* and *Glass Art Quarterly*, as well as popular online resources *boingboing* and *design*sponge*. He was selected as one of 20 emerging Searchlight Artists for 2008 by the American Craft Council. Paiko holds a BS in Studio Art from California Polytechnic State University.

ABOUT ETHAN ROSE

An experimental sound artist and composer, Ethan Rose specializes in found sounds and the recontextualization of musical technologies from the past from music boxes to pipe organs and player pianos. His work was included in the 2007 film *Paranoid Park*, directed by Gus Van Sant, and has been reviewed by national publications including *The New York Times*, *Pitchfork* and *XLR8R*. He has performed as part of Portland Institute for Contemporary Art’s Time-Based Art Festival and the SXSW Music Festival, among many other venues throughout the nation. Rose holds a BA in Music Composition from Lewis & Clark College.

ABOUT MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art 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

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of craft and the way audiences experience it.
Visit the Museum online at www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org.

NOTE TO THE MEDIA: With the opening of *Transference* on November 19, 2009, Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art will charge a \$3 general admission fee to adults over the age of 12. Read the full admissions policy here: http://www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org/info_about.php

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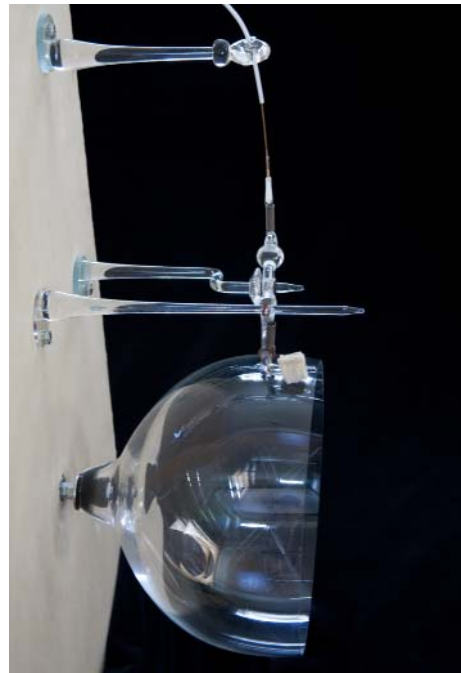
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Hours

Tuesday through Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM
First Thursday of every month 11 AM to 8 PM
Closed Sunday and Monday

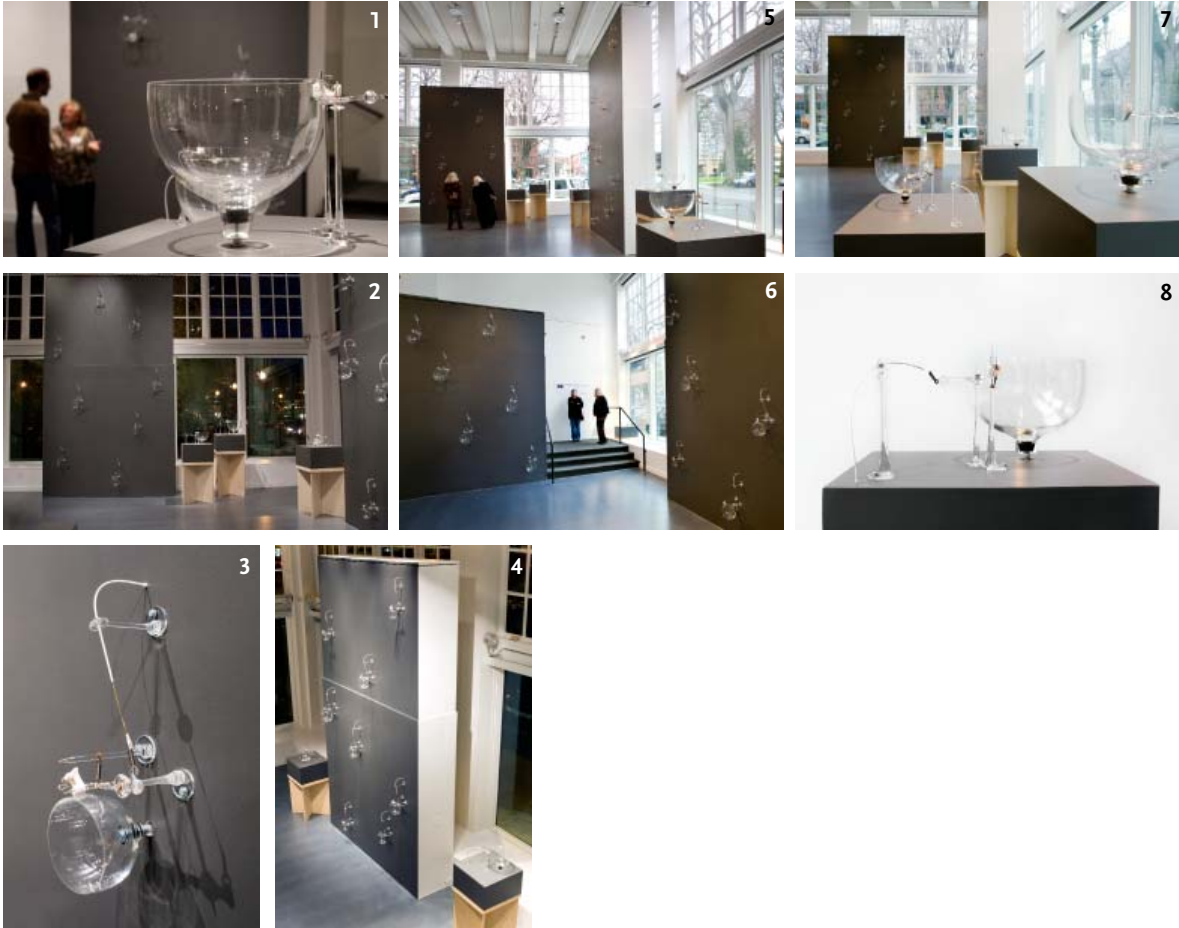
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These images are available as high resolution JPEG files at our online press center: www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org/presscenter



ALL IMAGES: Andy Paiko and Ethan Rose, *Transference*, 2009; Glass and mixed-media sound installation; Dimensions vary; Images by Heather Zinger.

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IMAGES 1 & 2: Andy Paiko and Ethan Rose, *Transference*, 2009; Glass and mixed-media sound installation; Dimensions vary; Installation view, Museum of Contemporary Craft; Photo by Heather Zinger.

IMAGES 3–8: Andy Paiko and Ethan Rose, *Transference*, 2009; Glass and mixed-media sound installation; Dimensions vary; Installation view, Museum of Contemporary Craft; Photo by Jake Stangel.

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