

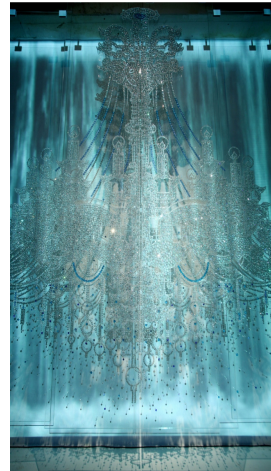
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Des Moines Art Center presents *Transparencies: Contemporary Art and A History of Glass***



*See captions below*

**Des Moines, IA (January 2013)** — On February 22, 2013, the Art Center will open a new exhibition, *Transparencies: Contemporary Art and A History of Glass*, which will be on view through May 22 in the Anna K. Meredith Gallery. (A preview party will be held on Thursday, February 21.)

*Transparencies* brings together a group of international artists whose work explores glass as both medium and as subject matter. Each creates contemporary art that connects with the history of glasswork, from luxury objects such as chandeliers and mirrors to household items like drinking vessels and light bulbs. Many forms of glass are represented: delicate, hand-worked mirrors and industrial sheets of Plexiglass, as well as works that despite appearances are not made of glass at all. The artists selected for *Transparencies* come from around the world, and vary widely in their art-making practices. Some have always worked with glass, both actually and conceptually, while others have only explored it occasionally. Combining sculpture, video, and installation with traditional forms of artisan technique such as stained and blown glass, *Transparencies* explores the role of glass in today's contemporary art world as well as in our everyday lives. Artists in the show include Jim Dingilian (U.S.), Matt Eskuche (U.S.), Monir Farmanfarmaian (Iran), Laura Fritz (U.S.), Rachel Lee Hovnanian (U.S.), Ran Hwang (Korea/U.S.), Luke Jerram (Great Britain), Karen LaMonte (U.S./Czech Republic), Judith Schaechter (U.S.), and Fred Wilson (U.S.). *Transparencies* is organized by Laura Burkhalter, associate curator.



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## Related Programs

### Lecture: William Warmus The Art and History of Glass

Sunday, March 10 / 2 pm

### Artist Lecture: Fred Wilson Opacities: The Unforgivable Beauty of Black Glass

Thursday, April 11 / 6:30 pm

#### Captions

##### Left:

Judith Schaechter (American, born 1961)  
*Mad Meg*, 2010 (detail)  
Stained glass lightbox, 55 5/8 x 24 x 6 1/4 inches  
New Britain Museum of American Art, Paul W. Zimmerman Fund

##### Center:

Jim Dingilian (American, born 1971)  
*Pine Alley*, 2009-2010  
Smoke inside empty glass bottle  
12 1/4 x 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches  
Collection of Noel Kirnon

##### Right:

Ran Hwang (Korean, born 1960)  
*Garden of Water*, 2010 (detail)  
Beads, crystal pins, video on plexiglass  
Overall: 90 x 9/16 x 19 11/16 inches  
6 panels total (each 90 9/16 x 19 11/16 inches)  
Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York

## Des Moines Art Center

Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Des Moines Art Center has amassed an important collection with a major emphasis on contemporary art. The collection's overriding principle is a representation of artists from the nineteenth century to the present, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an impressive collection that ranges from Edward Hopper's *Automat* to Jasper Johns' *Tennyson*, Henri Matisse's *Woman in White*, Georgia O'Keeffe's *From the Lake No. 1*, Francis Bacon's *Study after Velásquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Bill Viola's *Ascension*, and Cecily Brown's *Half-Bind*.

The Art Center's physical complex marries with the collection for a totally integrated experience. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a world-renowned architect - Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. With the exception of special events, admission to the museum is free.



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In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn have provided funding for and donated 27 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Willem de Kooning, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Mark di Suvero, is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaboration of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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