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Artwork Comprised of Multiple Parts Showcased in Upcoming Racine Art Museum Exhibition

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Open June 2, 2021 through February 12, 2022 at the Racine Art Museum (RAM), *Component Parts: Artworks Made of Multiple Elements* features works from the museum's permanent collection that are comprised of multiple parts—whether they be a single complex object or a series of several pieces unified as one work.

Artworks made of multiple elements are not new to the modern era but contemporary artists have pushed their direction and visual potential. Through conceptual, metaphorical, and experimental lenses, artists literally make one object, or one ultimate work, out of many pieces. *Component Parts* features a wide range of media and approaches—both two and three-dimensional—that expand this conversation.

Sculptural configurations made of individual pieces can register as single objects with layers of information. Examples include Beth Lipman's *Still Life with Detritus*, a sublime re-imagining in glass and wood of a historical still-life—including the table it rests upon—and Eddie Dominguez's *Fish Dinner*, a wall-mounted ceramic relief that cleverly uses underwater life-themed dinnerware to evoke an aquarium. Whereas Nancy Hild's painting group, *Allegory of Seven Sins*, could be understood as seven individual pieces, its narrative is most powerful when all of the paintings are considered in relation to one another. This part-to-whole idea is further underscored with print portfolios by individual artists—where one or two pieces could stand in for

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the whole but a different message is conveyed when larger numbers of works are viewed together at once.

The works in this exhibition are united by conceptual choices in presentation yet reflect a variety of perspectives and subject matter—from cultural, historical, and domestic issues to material and formal creative investigations.

Exhibitions at Racine Art Museum are made possible by: Platinum Sponsors—Anonymous, Nicholas and Nancy Kurten, Windgate Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Administration; Diamond Sponsors—Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors—Anonymous, David Charak, Tom and Irene Creecy, David Flegel, Herzfeld Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, Kathy Robins, Trio Foundation of St. Louis, W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; Silver Sponsors—A.C. Buhler Family, Andis Foundation, Lucy G. Feller, Ben and Dawn Flegel, Ron and Judith Isascs, Johnson Bank, Bill Keland, Dorothy MacVicar, RDK Foundation, Inc., Real Racine; Bronze Sponsors—Anonymous, Susan Boland, Virginia Buhler, Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Educators Credit Union, Fredrick and Deborah Ganaway, Tom and Sharon Harty, Tony and Andrea Hauser, The Norbell Foundation, Bill and Mary Walker; Media Sponsor—Wisconsin Public Radio.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture, and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

After temporarily closing its doors in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, RAM and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts are currently open to the public. Both museums are operating with limited hours, open Wednesday through Saturday from Noon to 4:00 pm. Information regarding safety protocols and what to expect when visiting the museums are available on the RAM website, ramart.org.