



PRESS RELEASE

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**This Summer
Racine Art Museum Showcases Contemporary Fiber Artists**

Racine, WI May 24, 2017

Highlighting Racine Art Museum (RAM)'s history with contemporary textile artists, this summer's exhibitions bring fiber-related artworks front and center. RAM is pleased to present **The Box Project: Uncommon Threads** showcasing commissioned works by 36 of the world's top fiber artists. They—many of whom usually work on a large scale—were challenged to create an original piece within the confines of a small box. Organized by the Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research (CFAR) with RAM, this traveling exhibition presents works commissioned by Lloyd Cotsen between 2004 and 2013 together with 22 large-scale fiber art pieces on loan. Open through August 27, 2017, RAM is the only Midwest venue for this show before its final stop in Washington, D.C.

Interviews, material samples, maquettes, correspondence, and concept sketches chronicle the creative strategies of the artists and shed light on the complex relationship between artist and collector. Viewing an individual Box Project is an intimate experience, and an invitation to step inside and consider the challenge presented by its confines. To give an even greater sense of the inventiveness involved in fulfilling the commission's restrictions, the large-scale pieces borrowed from a number of the participants are included to convey the often-monumental and highly variable nature of fiber art today.

Exhibiting artists John Garrett and Gyöngy Laky will be guests at RAM during Downtown Racine's First Friday on July 7 when visitors enjoy free admission from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. The artists will discuss their creative processes and commissioned works for *The Box Project* with Bruce W. Pepich, RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, and Lena Vigna, RAM Curator of Exhibitions. *Collection Focus* artist Renie Breskin Adams will also discuss her work in pictorial embroidery. RAM Members

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are invited to continue the conversation with the artists afterward in the Members Matter private lounge.

Garrett and Laky will present a Masters Workshop at RAM's Wustum Museum on July 8-9. Inspired by the exhibitions at RAM, this weekend workshop with internationally known artists will explore the relationship between a container and what it holds. Using materials such as wire, strips of cloth, rope, and twine, participants will explore a variety of simple and experimental construction techniques in playful, imaginative, and unexpected ways. More information and registration are available at www.ramart.org or by calling 262.636.9177.

Tying Together Selections from the Permanent Collection

A celebrated innovator, Renie Breskin Adams explores her dreams and personal history through colorful and humorous stitched narratives. Open June 18 – September 24, **Collection Focus: Renie Breskin Adams** features over 30 works—embroideries as well as preparatory drawings—that establish an archive of her work at RAM.

Also breaking boundaries with textiles, the husband and wife team of Susan Shie and James Acord craft lively quilts that combine fabric, thread, paint, text, and found objects in **Shie and Acord: Recent Acquisitions**.

These exhibitions are made possible by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsors: Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, W. T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors - Andis Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, Real Racine, Runzheimer International Ltd., United Way Racine County, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - CNH Industrial, EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Ruud Family Foundation, Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild; Media Sponsors - 88NINE Radio Milwaukee, 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.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available.

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Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.