



THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF
SCULPTURE OBJECTS & FUNCTIONAL ART: SOFA CHICAGO 2006
NOVEMBER 10 - 12,
OPENING NIGHT *MISE EN SCÈNE*: NOVEMBER 9
FESTIVAL HALL, NAVY PIER

The World's Foremost Exposition
Of Masterworks Bridging the Fine and Decorative Arts
Presented by 100 International Galleries and Dealers

CHICAGO, AUGUST 20, 2006. Mark Lyman, Founder/Director of Expressions of Culture, Inc, a dmg world media company, producer of SOFA CHICAGO and SOFA NEW YORK said, "This year's SOFA CHICAGO is the most international and the largest in terms of square footage that we have ever produced. To-date nineteen new galleries have joined the line-up, principal among them **Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco**, representing top contemporary and emerging art since 1978. **Galerie Besson, London**, specializing in international studio ceramics, leads the way for seven participating U.K galleries. Two new Danish galleries add strength to Scandinavian design arts at the fair." International presence continues to grow at SOFA CHICAGO with the addition of eleven new galleries from Denmark, Japan, Israel, France, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, South Korea, Switzerland, Ireland, England and Canada. They join exhibiting galleries and dealers from Australia, Argentina and Italy.

Lyman continued, "We are very excited that **Chubb** and **Collectify**, both high-profile leaders in the arts, are again major sponsors of SOFA CHICAGO. Their generous support will make special things happen at the fair, including the exciting addition of a VIP lounge." Chubb is one of the world's preeminent insurers of fine homes and possessions and *Collectify* is a leader in industry-standard collections management and cataloguing software. Lyman added, "SOFA looks forward to a productive partnership with Chubb and *Collectify*, where the presentation of fine objects and collections management support one another's goals."

Plan now to join artists, collectors, curators and cognoscenti at the festive **Opening Night *Mise en scène*, Thursday, November 9**. *Mise en scène* is a French theater term that means "putting on stage" or "a stage setting," and refers to the elegant art and setting of SOFA CHICAGO's Opening Night—truly a party with a view. Be among the

first to enjoy and acquire top quality pieces at the **Public Preview from 7-10 pm.** Tickets are \$50.00 and may be purchased in advance or at the door. Last year's Public Preview was attended by an estimated 2800 collectors and press. Ann Nathan of **Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago** said the show floor was "Packed! Loaded with expectation and enthusiasm." "Phenomenal Opening Night!" said Leslie Ferrin of **Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA.** "Opening Night was spectacular," said Terry Davidson of **Leo Kaplan Modern, New York, NY.** "Best we've ever had. We had people in the booth at 5:01 pm. It was amazing—a very focused group of buyers." Over 900 persons are again expected to attend the invitation-only "First Choice" Preview from 5 – 7 pm.

The SOFA CHICAGO 2006 Lecture Series will be held at the exposition Friday, November 10th & Saturday, November 11th and is free to SOFA attendees. 31 presentations by renowned artists, collectors and arts professionals are planned. As astounding 3100 persons attended the Lecture Series at SOFA CHICAGO 2005. This year's subjects explore international artists and artistic practices from countries as diverse as China and Korea, Wales and Ireland, and the Australian Outback.

Six Special Exhibits at the exposition will demonstrate that while today's world artists may reference national traditions in their work, many are far from traditional in expressing their own personal artistic vision. Special Exhibits are complimentary with admission and are designed to supplement the gallery presentations.

Be sure and stop by the SOFA CHICAGO booth of SOFAsphere – SOFA's new online community for arts-minded people interested in creativity, virtuosity and materiality in all media. SOFAsphere debuted at the 9th SOFA NEW YORK 2006 show (June 1-4), with many visitors and exhibitors expressing excitement about the digitally sophisticated and interactive site. SOFAsphere allows members to create a personal profile, search for like-minded persons with similar art interests, and exchange emails in a secure environment. Mark Lyman said, "Visit the SOFAsphere booth at SOFA CHICAGO and build your member profile so you connect and communicate anytime with international art dealers, collectors, artists, curators, designers, architects and students, both inside and beyond the SOFA community. *Widen your Circle* is our basic message to art enthusiasts everywhere."

A hugely popular, crowd-pleasing Special Event at SOFA CHICAGO is ***The Hot Glass Roadshow of The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY***, returning for the 5th straight year. The world's premier mobile glassblowing studio and SOFA CHICAGO will again team up to present internationally renowned glass artists demonstrating the creative process of working with molten glass. On-going throughout the exposition.

Coming soon to sofaexpo.com! View works of art for sale at the exposition by SOFA CHICAGO galleries and dealers, and Live Updates from the show.