

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2009

Media Inquiries
Carol Fox & Associates, Inc.
Matt Miller
773.327.3830 x 104
mattm@carolfoxassociates.com
On-line Press Room: www.sofaexpo.com/epress/

16th SOFA CHICAGO 2009: November 6 – 8, 2009 at Navy Pier's Festival Hall Opening Night Preview, Thursday, November 5

CHICAGO — Celebrating its 16th year, SOFA CHICAGO 2009, the critically acclaimed Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair, returns to Navy Pier's Festival Hall (600 E. Grand Avenue) Nov. 6 – 8 to present masterworks **from 68 top international galleries and dealers from 10 countries**. The Chicago fair will also feature **5 special exhibits** by renowned museums, universities and arts organizations, as well as **33 lecture series presentations**, all included in the admission price. Debuting this year is **SOLO at SOFA**, a special section of the show floor featuring installations by cutting-edge artists outside of the more formal structure of the representing gallery's exhibit booth.



Andrea Salvador, "Walking On a Dream," 2009. glass mosaic, 51.2 x 42.5" Represented by Berengo Studio, Bergamo, Venice

Mark Lyman, founding director of SOFA says, "We're very excited about SOLO at SOFA where we'll see new works that explore both individual artists and object groupings. The work will present cutting-edge concept and vision, as well as technical and material innovation. **We're also planning a Sam Maloof Tribute Weekend to honor the lifework and influence of the late Sam Maloof, including an Opening Night dinner to benefit the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts.**

Lyman adds, "Attesting to SOFA's strong collector base, we're delighted that **Chubb Personal Insurance**, one of the world's preeminent insurers of fine homes, art and antiques, has again signed on to be a major sponsor of the Chicago fair." Lyman continues, "Even in this tough economy, the dealers are bringing their best artists and planning major exhibits. Chicago will be wowed." Standouts include a comprehensive survey of **Contemporary Studio Furniture** presented by **William Zimmer Gallery**, Menocino, CA; New York gallerist **Barry**

Friedman Ltd's focus exhibition, **Venice: 3 Visions in Glass**, featuring **Laura de Santillana**, **Cristiano Bianchin** and **Yoichi Ohira**; Tel Aviv, Israel's **Litvak Gallery's** installation of Czech optical glass master, **Vaclav Ciglar's Spheres**, created as an "event...a "living organism, co-created and transformed by the presence of individuals"; and **Ferrin Gallery** of Pittsfield, MA presents **The Illusculptors: A Group Show of Illustrated Ceramic Sculpture**, a survey of sculptors integrating three dimensional ceramic form and illustration to convey content, artists include **Sergei Isupov**, **Kurt Weiser**, **Chris Antemann** and **Richard Notkin**.

Other premier SOFA CHICAGO 2009 exhibitors include: **Perimeter Gallery**, **Ann Nathan Gallery** and **Ken Saunders Gallery** of Chicago; **Galleri Udengaard** and **Galleri Grønlund** of Denmark; **Galleri Norsu** of Finland; **Kirra Gallery** of Australia; **Galerie Porkona** of Czechoslovakia; **Galerie Besson** of London, **Heller Gallery**, **Scott Jacobson Gallery (formerly Leo Kaplan Modern)**, **Chappell Gallery**, **Crawford Contemporary** and **Charon Kransen Arts** of New York City; **Holsten Galleries** of Stockbridge, MA; **del Mano Gallery**, Los Angeles; **William Zimmer Gallery**, Mendocino, CA; **Bullseye Gallery**, Portland, Or; **Blue Rain Gallery**, **William and Joseph Gallery** and **Jane Sauer Gallery** of Santa Fe, NM; **Sienna Gallery**, Lenox, MA; **Wexler Gallery**, Philadelphia, PA and **Donna Schneier Fine Art**, Miami, FL For a full listing, see enclosed Gallery List.

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 VIP PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EXHIBITS

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 will again produce an exclusive **VIP Program** for upper-level gallery clients and collector groups. **Special Exhibits** to be mounted by international arts organizations include **Sam Maloof Woodworking, Inc. and the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts**; the **Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA)**; the **Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts**; **American Association of Woodturners**; and **BIGG: Breakthrough Ideas in Global Glass**, presented by Ohio State University and Hawk Galleries. Returning by popular demand is the **Corning Museum of Glass' Hot Glass Roadshow**, a mobile glassblowing studio that will make on-going Fair presentations. See enclosed Special Exhibits listings.

**HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES FOR PRINT ARE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DOWNLOAD
IN THE SOFA CHICAGO ONLINE PRESS ROOM AT <http://www.sofaexpo.com/epress/>**

SOFA LECTURE SERIES

The **SOFA Lecture Series** will again feature top museum curators, professional art advisors, artists, collectors, interior designers, critics and art market journalists who will share their professional and personal experiences in the field. Speakers include **Janet Koplos**, former senior editor, "Art in America," and guest editor-in-chief of "American Craft"; Italian glass artist **Laura de Santillana**, Barry Friedman, Ltd; ceramic artist **Kurt Weiser**, Ferrin Gallery; Australian glass artist **Giles Bettison**, Bullseye Gallery; **Frank Maraschiello**, Vice President, and Director of 20th Century Decorative Art, Bonhams; Chicago philanthropist **John H. Bryan**; designer **George Larsen**; and **Roseanne Somerson**, Department Head, Furniture Design, Rhode Island School of Design. See enclosed Lecture Series schedule.

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 OPENING NIGHT PREVIEW GALA

The **SOFA CHICAGO 2009 Opening Night Preview Gala**, much anticipated by collectors, museum curators, art advisors, interior designers and architects, artists and cognoscenti is scheduled for **Thursday evening, Nov. 5**. First Choice Preview: 5 - 7 p.m., by invitation only. **Public Preview: 7 - 9 p.m.**; **Tickets for the Public Preview are \$50 and will be available in advance or at the door beginning at 6:00 p.m.** Visit sofaexpo.com to purchase tickets online.

The public is also cordially invited to a **fundraising dinner on Opening Night in honor of the late Sam Maloof, which will benefit the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts**, whose mission is "perpetuate excellence in craftsmanship, encourage young artists, and make available to the public the treasure house the Maloof's lovingly created."

The Tribute will begin at 8:30 pm on the SOFA CHICAGO show floor. Proceeds will also support **Anderson Ranch Arts Center Maloof Scholarship Fund, and The Furniture Society Scholarship Program**. For ticket levels and benefits: visit www.sofaexpo.com.



Guests at the SOFA CHICAGO Opening Night Preview

Also the public may join **Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts of Newcastle, ME** for a Chicago celebration of legendary ceramic artists **Ruth Duckworth, Jim Melchert, Don Reitz and Toshiko Takaezu**. The highlight of the artists' tribute is the **Watershed LEGENDS Gala Award Dinner** on Friday, Nov. 6, 7- 10 pm at the Arts Club of Chicago, 201 East Ontario Street. Proceeds will benefit Watershed's artist residency programs. For ticket levels and benefits: visit www.watershedceramics.org.

Also planned is an invitation-only **Designers Breakfast**. Guided by SOFA's prestigious Designers Committee, designers and their clients may enjoy a champagne breakfast and an exclusive preview of the Fair before it opens to the general public on Friday morning, Nov. 6.

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 CALENDAR LISTING

SOFA CHICAGO 2009 will be presented in Navy Pier's Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand Avenue, Nov. 6 - 8. Tickets for the Opening Night Gala Preview on Thursday, Nov. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. are \$50. Tickets for the Opening Night Sam Maloof Benefit Tribute Dinner at 8:30 pm on the Fair show floor are available on www.sofaexpo.com. Fair hours are as follows: Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8 from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for single day general admission and \$25 for a three-day pass. Discounted student, senior and group tickets are available. Catalogs are \$15. For general information, please visit sofaexpo.com; call 800.563.SOFA (7632) or 773.506.8860; or email info@sofaexpo.com.