



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release

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For Immediate Release

Museum Acquires Sculpture by Contemporary Artist Beth Lipman

Montgomery, AL, Monday, December 21, 2015- The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to announce the acquisition of a sculpture by Wisconsin-based artist Beth Lipman (American, born 1971). *Pitcher with Vine*, 2011, was created using glittering glass. This large-scale, three-dimensional still life references early examples of seventeenth-century Baroque still lifes—specifically the Dutch Haarlem style of traditional laid tables while addressing issues relevant to today such as consumerism and excess. It was purchased for the Museum’s collection using funds from the Collectors Society and through the generosity of individual patrons Dr. Laurie Weil and Dr. Tommy Wool, Corinna and Barry Wilson, James W. Wilson, Jr., and Wynona W. Wilson Family Foundation, Karen and Marvin Campbell, Laura and Barrie Harmon, Ann Hubbert, Joan Loeb, Laura and Michael Lockett, Dawn and Adam Schloss, and Helen Till.

Lipman’s mastery over the glass medium has garnered her several awards including a Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant, a United States Artist Berman Bloch Fellowship, and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant among others. Exhibited internationally, her spectacular, ghostly still lifes have been collected by numerous museums including the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, the Jewish Museum, New York, NY, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. Her provocative and sophisticated works transcend the dazzling beauty of glass, capturing transitory moments caught between growth and decay and standing as timeless portraits of humanity.

Since 2007, The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts has actively engaged in collecting Studio Art Glass and glass installation art. Outstanding examples by contemporary American glass artists fill the Weil Atrium Gallery. Beth Lipman’s *Pitcher with Vine* is an important addition to the Museum’s collection as it expands upon the Studio Art Glass tradition into contemporary installation. Museum Director Mark Johnson noted, “*Pitcher with Vine* highlights the creativity of an artist utilizing the timeless medium of glass while demonstrating the ever changing nature of this material in the 21st century.” Overflowing with

unique objects created using varied techniques such as blown, lamp-worked, solid-sculpted, and kiln-formed glass, *Pitcher with Vine* is particularly appropriate for the MMFA's collection as Lipman entangles her complex still life with glass kudzu vines, a plant familiar to those in the South.

The sculpture is on view as part of the exhibition *Once & Again: Still Lifes by Beth Lipman* until January 31, 2016. It will then travel to the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In the summer of 2016, it will return to the MMFA for installation with other works from the Museum's permanent collection.

The MMFA, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Exhibition programs are supported by The Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Beth Lipman (American, born 1971), *Pitcher with Vine*, 2011, Glass, wood, paint, and adhesive, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association Purchase with funds provided by the Collectors Society, Dr. Laurie Weil and Dr. Tommy Wool, Corinna and Barry Wilson, James W. Wilson, Jr., and Wynona W. Wilson Family Foundation, Karen and Marvin Campbell, Laura and Barrie Harmon, Ann Hubbert, Joan Loeb, Laura and Michael Luckett, Dawn and Adam Schloss, and Helen Till 2015.15

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