

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Rainbow Like You, blown glass, acrylic, lighting, 2015. Courtesy of the artist and Heller Gallery, New York. Photo: Fredrik Nilsen.



As Clear as the Experience, blown glass, steel and plate glass, 2017. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Fredrik Nilsen.

KATHERINE GRAY: AS CLEAR AS THE EXPERIENCE

May 27 - September 9, 2018

LOS ANGELES - The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) presents *Katherine Gray: As Clear as the Experience*, a solo presentation of the Los Angeles-based glass artist. Gray is known for **installations made from hand-blown glass vessels coupled with theatrical lighting to form vivid projections on the walls**. Drawing on the rich traditions of glassblowing, as well as her personal explorations into unique surface treatments, dramatic lighting, and viewer interaction, Gray's work urges viewers to experience glass beyond its function. Curated by CAFAM exhibitions curator Holly Jerger, this will be the artist's first solo museum exhibition in Los Angeles. It features 10 large format works, including an immersive installation that brings visitors into the sights, sounds, and smells of the glassblowing studio, also known as the hot shop. The exhibition takes place from May 27 to September 9, 2018.

"Katherine's work is a poetic reminder that our daily lives are shaped by the objects that surround us. These objects serve as the backdrops for life events and reservoirs for memories, often extending their function far beyond their maker's original purpose," **says Holly Jerger**. "Although Katherine's medium of choice-glass-is usually transparent, she never thinks of glass as 'clear.' It is always tinted by the intangible emotions and experiences embedded in the material."

By layering multiple vessels together and exploring the interplay of light and shadow, Gray's works transform the scale and presence of the ubiquitous glass form by making the "invisible visible." Many of her vessels are based on a traditional American pitcher form and feature three kinds of glass: clear, colored, and opaque black. *A Rainbow Like You* (2015) acts as both a glass and light installation, as theater lights project a luminous rainbow onto the wall through a collection of multi-chrome glass vessels. For *As Clear as the Experience* (2017), she makes the glass as visible as possible through a dense installation of 86 pieces of black-colored domestic glassware-an antithesis to our daily experiences with glass.

"Katherine Gray is particularly interesting to CAFAM because her pieces are based on a very personal connection with the material," **says CAFAM executive director Suzanne Isken**. "As a space that is interested in showing contemporary artists with a link to the traditions and labor of specific materials, Gray's solid foundation in glassblowing and her interest in experimentation with the medium are very appealing to us."

An interactive installation made from four different works evokes the sensory experience of being in the hot shop, including *Wax, Paper, Block, and Sleeve* (2015), for which Gray commissioned perfumer Kedra Hart to create four scents that recall the smells in the hot shop. An auditory work called *Back and Forth* (2015) allows visitors to listen to the sounds of the hot shop through a hand-blown cup.

"The pieces in this exhibition reflect several of my abiding interests: the ways glass is used and has been used in our culture; the experience of blowing glass; and even how glass is displayed in thrift stores," **says Katherine Gray**. "In all cases, I'm fascinated by how an 'invisible' material can be transcendent in its quotidian incarnations."



The Break, blown glass, acrylic shelving, 2013.
Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Fredrik Nilsen.

Katherine Gray (b. 1965) studied at Ontario College of Art and received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her works are included in the permanent collections of the Corning Museum of Glass, New York; Museum of American Glass, and the Tacoma Museum of Glass. Gray is Professor at California State University San Bernardino where she has taught since 2007. Through teaching in one of the last remaining glass programs in Southern California, Gray has helped to activate a younger generation of glass innovators in the region.

OPENING RECEPTION

An opening reception for *Katherine Gray: As Clear as the Experience* takes place on Saturday, May 26, 2018 from 6:00-9:00PM. The reception is free for CAFAM members and open to the public for a \$12 entry fee.

CREDITS

Katherine Gray: As Clear as the Experience is organized by CAFAM exhibitions curator Holly Jerger at the Craft & Folk Art Museum.

This exhibition is supported in part by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.

PROGRAMS

CAFAM will offer a full slate of exhibition-related programs, including artist-led workshops, demonstrations, and gallery walkthroughs with curators. Details can be found at www.cafam.org/programs

Gallery Talk with Katherine Gray

Sunday, June 24 | 2:00PM | Free

Katherine Gray and exhibitions curator Holly Jerger lead a gallery walkthrough and discussion about glassblowing process and the artist's unique processes.

Situated on historic Museum Row since 1965, the **Craft & Folk Art Museum** (CAFAM) is an invaluable contributor to Los Angeles culture, exhibiting current artists with intriguing perspectives and distinctive practices. Exploring the leading edge of craft, art, and design, CAFAM gives audience to diverse makers and artists whose work is often not represented in larger art institutions. The museum is a place to see art and make art — all under one roof. CAFAM coordinates a robust roster of hands-on workshops led by professional artists and makers. The intimate, atypical museum space and independent spirit at CAFAM combine to create an atmosphere of excitement and innovation, where people in Los Angeles deepen their relationships to art, creativity, and one another. For more information, visit www.cafam.org

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Admission: FREE every Sunday Regularly: \$7 for adults; \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; free for CAFAM members

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11AM to 5PM; Saturday & Sunday, 11AM to 6PM; closed Mondays. Every first Thursday of the month, extended hours 6:30 - 9:30PM.