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“RECOLLECTION” – AN OBSESSION WITH COLLECTING & CRAFTSMANSHIP
The first major collaborative mixed media exhibition for Michael Rogers and Richard Hirsch

PITTSBURGH, PA ... Glass artist Michael Rogers and ceramic artist Richard Hirsch present their first major exhibition at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) called “Recollection.” A collaborative mixed media exhibition, “Recollection” explores the theme of collecting and extends beyond clay and glass to found objects and other materials. “Recollection” runs through Mar. 30, 2008 at Pittsburgh Glass Center, located at 5472 Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pa. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm and Friday – Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

An Extraordinary Exchange

For over a year, ceramic artist Richard Hirsch and glass artist Michael Rogers have been involved in an extraordinary exchange. At the heart of their collaboration is their obsession with collecting things.

“While the character of their treasures differs, once sought and salvaged, they are positioned carefully, loved, lived and savored again. These are the icons of other cultures, bygone utility and natural formation. From countless riches they are encouraged to speak, suggest, question, and to mingle histories that were once separate,” said Dr. Scott Meyer, a

ceramic sculptor and professor of ceramic art at the University of Montevallo, Ala., about the exhibition.

The artists share a craft medium heritage. Each artist's individual sculpture pieces of clay and glass, though aesthetically different in nature, have a material sensitivity and a deep respect for craftsmanship.

The Evolution of the Exhibition

The art in the exhibition was created during a residency in 2007 at Pittsburgh Glass Center, one of the top glass art facilities in the U.S., and Ceramics@UP, a Pittsburgh-based ceramic cooperative, production studio and social enterprise run by The Union Project, a nonprofit organization that provides a gathering and working space for artists, community builders and people of faith. Rogers, Hirsch and a team of their students from Rochester Institute of Technology including Jeremy Griffith, Andrew Koupal, Minkyu Lee, Kevin Mulcahy and David Schnuckel spent two weeks in Pittsburgh in March and September. At PGC and The Union Project, they explored the potential of ceramics and glass while taking full advantage of each others fresh approach to these mediums.

About the Artists

In his personal work, **Richard Hirsch** creates ceramic sculptures that explore the spirituality and ritual embedded in familiar vessel forms. He imbues his work with the look of age and antiquity by applying certain ceramic surfaces and incorporating other materials such as iron, glass, bronze, and wood. "Ultimately, this work is an attempt to metamorphosize the seemingly mundane vessel-object into a sacred entity," said Hirsch.

Michael Rogers works with glass, reflecting his interests in language, literature, and found objects through the coupling of unexpected artifacts and forms within engraved vitrines. By combining found objects with etched text, Rogers creates metaphors and stretches the

associations typically assigned to the artifacts and words that he works with. He says, "Through this process of combination, I attempt to arrive at a sculptural object that contains something new and different from the parts it comprises."

Hirsch and Rogers are on the faculty of the School of American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Hirsch, a member of RIT's Ceramics Department since 1987, received his M.F.A. in Ceramics there and his B.S. in Art Education from SUNY at New Paltz, N.Y. He is a member of the International Ceramic Academy, Geneva, Switzerland and has been awarded various grants, including a Fulbright Research Scholar Award in 2002, which he applied to visiting artist residencies in China and Taiwan.

Rogers received his B.A. in Art and M.A. in Sculpture from Western Illinois University and his M.F.A. in Sculpture/Glass from the University of Illinois. He served as a professor and head of the Glass Department at Aichi University of Education in Kariya, Japan for over ten years. He was co-chair of the 1998 Glass Art Society Conference in Japan and is a former president of the society.

About Pittsburgh Glass Center

Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. The 16,000+ square foot facility houses state-of-the-art studios in hot glass, flameworking, coldworking, casting and kilnworking. The staff of skilled technicians, highly qualified instructors and dedicated administrators work together to create an open environment where students of all skill levels can explore and achieve their creative vision in glass. The goal is to provide instruction and resources to expand the skills and knowledge of our students, while fostering a new generation of glass artists and enthusiasts in the Pittsburgh region, and in its East End home. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145.

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