

**Contacts:** Karen Frasca  
617.369.3442  
kfrascona@mfa.org

Amelia Kantrovitz  
617.369.3447  
akantrovitz@mfa.org

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON, ANNOUNCES MAJOR GIFT OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFT  
FROM DAPHNE FARAGO COLLECTION**



*Structure No. 18: Theory of Lift,*  
Jeannette Marie Ahlgren, 1994

BOSTON, MA (January 18, 2013)— The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), announces a gift of 161 works from longtime supporter Daphne Farago — the Museum's largest-ever gift of contemporary craft across a range of media. These 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century works are among the finest examples of studio craft and represent objects by notable artists, such as fiber artists Anni Albers and Sheila Hicks, sculptor Robert Arneson, glass artist Dale Chihuly, and furniture maker John Cederquist. The gift includes works of fiber (94), ceramics (24), glass (19), turned wood/carvings (11), metal (5), furniture (4), jewelry (2), basketry (1), and folk art (1). The largest donor of contemporary craft in the Museum's history, Mrs. Farago has transformed the MFA's collection with gifts

totaling nearly 950 objects to the Museum in her lifetime. Other significant donations to the MFA by Mrs. Farago include the 2006 gift of more than 650 pieces of contemporary jewelry and the 2004 gift of more than 80 works of contemporary fiber art created by the late Edward Rossbach and Katherine Westphal.

"These works illustrate Daphne Farago's vision as a collector — they are part of her personal collection and represent some of the finest, most intellectually and technically ambitious creations in these areas," said Malcolm Rogers, Ann and Graham Gund Director of the MFA. "We greatly appreciate her generosity and longstanding commitment to the MFA."

One of the finest holdings of fiber art in private hands, the gift includes works such as *Dotted Weaving* (1959) by Albers, *Jasper Johns Teapot/Ventriloquist* (2000) by Kate Anderson, and *Structure No. 18: Theory of Lift* (1994) by Jeannette Marie Ahlgren. Other fiber artists represented include Dominic Di Mare, Lenore Tawney, and Kay Sekimachi.



*Couchabunga*, John Cederquist, 1992

Among the highlights of works of ceramics are *Alice Plate* (1968) by Arneson, *Then, Now, Before, After* (1994) by Kathy Butterly, and *Untitled Vessel* (1999) by Ralph Bacerra. Standout objects of glass include *English Red Light Venetian #165* (about 1989) by Chihuly; *Fili Neri con Capelli Rossi d'Angelo* (2002) by Yoichi Ohira; and *CFKGREENHg #19901* by Joel Philip Myers. Also of note is the wood bench *Couchabunga* (1992) by Cederquist and the necklace *Adam and Eve Being Cast From the Garden of Eden* (1981-82) by Joyce J. Scott.

“Daphne Farago’s gift is a game-changer for us,” said Edward Saywell, Chair of the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art. “Although the MFA has a distinguished history of collecting and exhibiting contemporary craft, this gift broadens and deepens our holdings in truly significant ways. The gift will be a touchstone for the collection and will be a remarkable legacy.”

Daphne Farago and her late husband, Peter Farago, have been generous donors to the MFA for several decades and are recognized as Great Benefactors (representing giving of financial and/or works of art of \$2.5 million-\$5 million) to the Museum. In recognition of their continued generosity, the MFA named its contemporary craft gallery in the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art the Daphne and Peter Farago Gallery when it opened in September 2011. Currently, a selection of works lent by the Farago Collection is grouped in the gallery’s current installation ***Crafting Contemporary: Selections from the Daphne Farago Collection***. In August 2013, a number of works from this most recent gift will be on display in the Farago Gallery, as well as in the Art of the Americas Wing. Additionally, the Faragos established the Daphne Farago Lecture on Jewelry in 1996, and Mrs. Farago serves on the Textile and Fashion Arts Visiting Committee and is a former member of the Art of the Americas Visiting Committee.

Mrs. Farago, a native of South Africa, has been collecting for decades. In addition to outstanding holdings of contemporary craft, she amassed one of the finest assemblages of early American objects — initially her collecting passion. Her holdings in American folk art were sold in 1991 to benefit the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, which later opened the Daphne Farago Wing for contemporary art.



*English Red Light Venetian #165*, Dale Chihuly, about 1989

## EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

To celebrate the fiber arts and jewelry collections that Mrs. Farago has given to the Museum, the MFA presented the exhibitions ***Ed Rossbach Fiber Art from the Daphne Farago Collection*** and ***Jewelry by Artists: The Daphne Farago Collection***, both on view from May 2007 – March 2008. In addition, it mounted the exhibition ***Threads on the Edge*** in 2002, which highlighted works of fiber from the Farago Collection. The MFA also published the catalogue *Jewelry by Artists: In the Studio 1940 – 2000* (2010) based on the Farago jewelry collection; and exhibition brochures *Ed Rossbach: Fiber Art From the Daphne Farago Collection* (2007); *Jewelry by Artists: The Daphne Farago Collection* (2007); and *Threads on the Edge / The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* (2002).

*The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), is recognized for the quality and scope of its encyclopedic collection, which includes an estimated 450,000 objects. The Museum's collection is made up of: Art of the Americas; Art of Europe; Contemporary Art; Art of Asia, Oceania, and Africa; Art of the Ancient World; Prints, Drawings, and Photographs; Textile and Fashion Arts; and Musical Instruments. Open seven days a week, the MFA's hours are Saturday through Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.; and Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. Admission (which includes one repeat visit within 10 days) is \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors and students age 18 and older, and includes entry to all galleries and special exhibitions. Admission is free for University Members and youths age 17 and younger on weekdays after 3 p.m., weekends, and Boston Public Schools holidays; otherwise \$10. Wednesday nights after 4 p.m. admission is by voluntary contribution (suggested donation \$25). MFA Members are always admitted for free. The MFA's multi-media guide is available at ticket desks and the Sharf Visitor Center for \$5, members; \$6, non-members; and \$4, youths. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day, Patriots' Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For more information, visit [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org) or call 617.267.9300. The MFA is located on the Avenue of the Arts at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.*

###