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**FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS
JOSH SIMPSON: A VISIONARY JOURNEY IN GLASS
MAY 1—NOVEMBER 28, 2010**

Exhibition traces unique career of self-taught Massachusetts-based glass master

High resolution images available at http://ashmontmedia.com/FCM_simpson_photos.html

(Brockton, Mass. – March 24, 2010) Fuller Craft Museum presents *Josh Simpson: A Visionary Journey in Glass* from May 1—Nov. 28, 2010. This exhibition of approximately 100 works, selected from the artist's personal collection, traces the unique journey of this self-taught master of glass, from his early traditional pieces to the spectacular tour-de-force multi-layered works of the present.

Best known for his intricate glass “planets,” Josh Simpson creates worlds of wonder, inspired by nature and space exploration. The kaleidoscopic magic of his undersea, land, and outer-space vistas is also seen in many of his utilitarian objects – goblets, tumblers, vases-where he has pushed the limits of contemporary glass artistry. Simpson first experimented with glass when he was a student at Hamilton College in 1972. Since then, he has mastered all aspects of glassmaking from designing and building his own furnaces, to learning glass chemistry in order to create his own spectrum of colors. In addition to unique goblets, vases, and bowls, His luminous glass “planets,” complete with landscapes, underwater scenes, and vistas of outer space, reflect the earth and the vastness and complexity of the universe. Simpson’s wife, astronaut Catherine “Cady” Coleman, took one of his intricate glass planets into outer space with her on a space mission in 1995. Simpson lives and works in the Western Massachusetts town of Shelburne Falls.

According to Simpson, “Glass is an alchemic blend of sand and metallic oxides, combined with extraordinary, blinding heat. The result is a material that flows and drips like honey. When it’s hot, glass is alive! It moves gracefully and inexorably in response to gravity and centrifugal force. It possesses an

inner light and transcendent radiant heat that make it simultaneously one of the most fascinating and one of the most frustrating materials to work. I attempt to coax it; all it wants to do is drip on the floor. Most of my work reflects a compromise between the glass and me - the piece is finished when we both agree.”

Simpson's art is included in the permanent collections of the White House Collection of American Crafts, Corning Museum of Glass in Cornwall, New York, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, Czech Republic, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Royal Ontario Museum. Simpson's studio website is www.megaplanet.com.

Josh Simpson will talk about the exhibition on May 2 at 12:30 p.m. at Fuller Craft. Tickets are \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. The Museum will celebrate the opening of *Josh Simpson: A Visionary Journey in Glass* with a public reception on May 2 from 2—5 p.m. at the Museum. The reception is free for members and free with museum admission for all others.

This exhibition is organized by the Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Ala.

Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft

Nancy Crow: Crossroads/New and Recent Quilts
Through May 9, 2010

On the Line: Frank and Francine Ozereko
Through July 18, 2010

Furniture From the Permanent Collection
Through Sept. 26, 2010

Caravan: An Installation by John Garrett
Through March 27, 2011

Coming Soon to Fuller Craft

Josh Simpson: A Visionary Journey in Glass
May 1—Nov. 28, 2010

Mariko Kusumoto: Unfolding Stories
May 22—Aug. 8, 2010

The New Materiality: Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft
May 29, 2010—Feb. 6, 2011

About Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak St. in Brockton, Mass. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., with free admission for all Wednesdays from 5—9 p.m. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit www.fullercraft.org or call (508) 588-6000.

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Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft.