

**The Menil Collection and the Core Program at The Glassell School of Art  
of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Announce A New Collaboration**

**“Making History: Curating Contemporary Art”  
Will Address the Evolving State of Curatorial Practice**

Houston, March 11, 2009 – Kicking off Friday evening, March 13, “Making History: Curating Contemporary Art,” a new two-year collaboration between The Core Program at The Glassell School of Art of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and The Menil Collection will present a diverse series of discussions that addresses the changing state of curatorial practice and the relationship between the contemporary curator and the institution.

Topics range from the legacies of the influential curators Harald Szeemann and Walter Hopps, who were progenitors of a new generation of curators in the 1970s and 1980s, to the collaborative role that curators play today in the production of art. The discussions will also address how contrasting practices and critical strategies play out in an international arena.

The series will be inaugurated at the Menil on Friday evening, March 13, with a public lecture by the recipient of the Menil’s 2009 Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement, Maria Lind, director of the graduate program at the Bard College for Curatorial Studies. It will continue the next day, Saturday, March 14, with a symposium at the Glassell School of Art, featuring Bennett Simpson (Associate Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles), Dominic Molon (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago), and Christian Rattemeyer (The Harvey S. Shipley Miller Associate Curator of Drawings, Museum of Modern Art). Anjali Gupta, editor of *Art Lies*, will serve as moderator.

“Making History” is organized by Core program administrators Mary Leclère and Joe Havel, and Menil curators Franklin Sirmans and Michelle White.

All events are free and open to the public.

## **About Core**

The highly competitive Core program awards one- and two-year residencies to visual artists and art scholars who have completed their undergraduate or graduate training but have not yet fully developed a professional career. Core residents are given private studio space or an office, 24-hour access to school facilities and equipment, privileges at the museum's Hirsch Library and the Fondren Library at nearby Rice University, and a \$10,000 annual stipend.

## **The Glassell School of Art**

The Glassell School of Art is the teaching wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Established in 1927, it was renamed in honor of Alfred C. Glassell, Jr., in 1979. The school has a reputation for outstanding training in the fine arts, and offers a wide variety of programs and classes for adults and children through its Studio School and Junior School. The Glassell Community Outreach Program serves more than 2,000 individuals, including hospitalized children, and hearing and visually impaired people. For more information 713.639.7500.

The Glassell School of Art is located at 5101 Montrose Boulevard, and is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**The Menil Collection**, located within Houston's Museum District, is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

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