

## Internationally Acclaimed Artist Michael Petry to Offer Free Lecture on the “Art of Not Making” on April 14 at Palm Springs Art Museum

*Lecture will Profile Artists Who Employ Others to Create Art*



March 23, 2011 (Palm Springs, CA) – Internationally-known artist Michael Petry will present a free lecture at the Palm Springs Art Museum’s Annenberg Theater on Thursday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. This event is open to the public and is sponsored by the museum’s Contemporary Art Council. Petry is an acclaimed conceptual multimedia artist who has created original installation works around the world and is the author of the new book *The Art of Not Making: The New Artist/Artisan Relationship*, which will be available for purchase at the event. In his lecture, Petry will profile the art of contemporary artists who have one thing in common: they do not make their own work. Instead, they either employ others to produce it on their behalf or appropriate objects made by someone else.

Master craftsmen, artisans, and fabricators are just some of the technical specialists who help realize the creative vision of these artists. But when an artist does not make his or her own work, what does it mean for the nature of art and for the status of the artist? During this engaging lecture, Petry will explore the relationship between creativity and production.

Petry’s book explores these and other questions about authorship, artistic originality, skills, craftsmanship, and the creative act. Beginning with an historical overview and continuing through the history of modern art, it highlights the vital role that skills from craft and industrial production play in creating some of today’s most innovative and highly sought-after works of art. Organized by the types of media, five chapters examine the relationships between many of the world’s most important artists and the artisans and fabricators they work with. Interviews with artists and craftsmen offer further insight into their creative collaborations.



A solo exhibition in spring 2012 at the Palm Springs Art Museum entitled *Michael Petry: The Touch of the Oracle*, will feature three site-specific installations – *Golden Rain*, *Joshua D’s Wall*, and *Joshua’s Dilemma*. *Golden Rain* will consist of 100 gold mirrored glass vessels that will be suspended from the museum’s ceiling. The site-specific *Joshua D’s Wall* alludes to the biblical story of Joshua, his horn and the fallen walls of Jericho. This

installation will feature a field of approximately 250 hand-blown glass stones (one pictured at left) that will reference the museum’s lava walls. *Joshua’s Dilemma* will be a sound piece that will periodically play throughout the gallery from hidden speakers.

### About Michael Petry

Michael Petry is Lecturer at the Royal College of Art and the Royal Academy Schools, London, and a co-author of *Installation Art*. He holds a Doctor of Arts degree from Middlesex University and is an internationally known multimedia artist. He is co-founder of the Museum of Installation in London, author of numerous books, and a captivating art lecturer. His work will be exhibited at Glasstress II as part of the 2011 Venice Biennale.

*The Art of Not Making: The New Artist/Artisan Relationship* is published by Thames & Hudson and will be available on April 1, 2011. It will feature 208 pages that include 324 illustrations, 318 in color and will retail for \$50.00 (hardcover). For more information on the book, contact Tiffany Alvarado McKenna 212.391.4609 / [tamckenna@thames.wwnorton.com](mailto:tamckenna@thames.wwnorton.com). Thames & Hudson books are distributed by W.W. Norton in the USA and Penguin in Canada.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Native American, Western and Mesoamerican and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. The museum's Annenberg Theater features outstanding musical performances. The museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission from 4 – 8 p.m. sponsored by the City of Palm Springs. Admission is free to members; youths 12 and under and active-duty military and their families. Regular admission is \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; and \$5 for adult students. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).

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*NOTE TO MEDIA: High resolution images are available upon request at 760.322.4814.*