



THE PHILIP JOHNSON
GLASS HOUSE

A SITE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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**THE PHILIP JOHNSON GLASS HOUSE LAUNCHES
GLASS HOUSE COMMISSIONS
FEATURING SIX OBJECTS OF DESIGN AND
THE GLASS HOUSE EXHIBITION
EXCLUSIVELY AT THE GLASS HOUSE VISITOR CENTER**

NEW CANAAN, Conn. (July 20, 2007) - The Philip Johnson Glass House is pleased to announce the launch of *Glass House Commissions*, a selection of limited editions created by emerging and established artists and designers. *Glass House Commissions* are made exclusively for the Glass House Visitor Center, which also houses the *Glass House Exhibition*, an engaging media installation that is a dynamic supplement to visiting the site. The Glass House Visitor Center is a first glance into the way the Glass House redefines the historic house museum experience.

The Visitor Center, the first and last stop on all tours, anchors and amplifies the experience and mission of the Glass House. The exhibition, a visual poem of the Glass House experience, and the shop, an innovative approach to artist commissions, take advantage of the site's trove of historic and visual assets, establishing its role as a center-point for the Modern at the National Trust.

The Glass House Exhibition is a media installation that runs simultaneously on 24 Mac minicomputers. Each loop is anchored by a quote or theme, and ranges in length from two to twenty minutes. The installation collectively offers an insightful and enveloping visual kaleidoscope about the life, work, and legacy of Philip Johnson and David Whitney. It draws upon both historic and contemporary material as diverse as a 1967 recording of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's groundbreaking on-site performance to a simple pan across the bookshelves in Johnson's personal study and library. *The Glass House Exhibition* completes one's visit by offering perspectives that cannot be gained on the site tour alone.

The Glass House Commissions feature unique pieces that are both inspired and informed by the Philip Johnson Glass House site. Visits to and knowledge of the site inspire designers to create objects that reflect and reinterpret the visions of Philip Johnson and David Whitney. Every year a new selection of artists and designers will create limited editions. Each item found in the Glass House Shop supports the mission of the Glass House to be a canvas for inspiration, experimentation and cultivation in the spirit of Philip Johnson and David Whitney. The first season of Glass House Commissions includes objects by **Yves Behar, Jessica Kagan Cushman, Josh Jakus, Frances Palmer, Jens Risom, and Julius Shulman.**

The Glass House Visitor Center is located at 199 Elm Street, New Canaan, CT. Regular hours are Monday, Wednesday through Saturday open 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Open Sunday 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. Closed Tuesdays. Tel 203.966.8167 / fax 203.966.8218. The Philip Johnson Glass House, a National Trust Historic site, opened in June 2007 for public tours.

GLASS HOUSE COMMISSIONS 2007

YVES BEHAR is the founder and design principal of San Francisco-based fuseproject, an integrated design firm innovating the way brands are being developed today. The Leaf lamp for the Glass House store is an outstanding example of his design ethos that utilizes sustainable design and LED. *Steel, aluminum & plastic LED personal task lamp; manufactured by Herman Miller, 2006; \$525-\$545.*

JESSICA KAGAN CUSHMAN applies her modern wit and quirky style to jewelry. She is most known for fossilized mammoth ivory bracelets with etched phrases. Philip Johnson's quotable nature inspired Cushman to create an exclusive line of bangle bracelets made from resin for the Glass House store. Each features one of Johnson's more famous quotations scrimshawed onto its exterior. *Cast resin bangle bracelet with scrimshawed quotes; 2007; \$125.*

JOSH JAKUS is a designer with a rich background in architecture that allows him to use the understanding of the built environment to inform his designs. His signature bags, made from pressed wool felt, lay flat when unzipped, but when zipped become functional, sculptural objects. Jakus has made one such bag for the Glass House store, taking particular inspiration from the house's red brick floor. *Pressed wool felt, brick-red zipper; 2007; \$39 Hold/\$115 Tote.*

FRANCES PALMER, the Weston, Connecticut, based potter, is internationally known for her happily eccentric tableware and vases. Palmer's group of pottery is directly inspired by the site's succulent garden adjacent to Calluna Farms with its collection of chicks and hens, as well as the George Ohr pottery that David Whitney collected extensively. *Unglazed hand-thrown pottery in white or brown porcelain; 2007 by Frances Palmer Pottery; \$195-\$400.*

JENS RISOM is a Danish furniture designer who combines simple, well-crafted Scandinavian modernity with streamlined American curves and angles. Risom is the recipient of numerous awards and his work has been placed in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, NY; the R.I.S.D. Museum, Providence, RI; and the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, NY. For the Glass House store, Risom has created a custom stool with Maharam fabric. *Cherry wood and Maharam fabric; manufactured by Ralph Pucci, 2007; \$1500.*

JULIUS SHULMAN is considered one of the greatest architectural photographers in the world. Shulman first photographed the Glass House in 1967. Upon returning in November 2006 with Juergen Nogai to photograph the site with Juergen Nogai, Shulman remarked, "I wish Philip Johnson was around, I would like to show him his house." It was these visits, almost forty years apart that inspired this commission. *Prints signed by Juluis Shulman & Juergen Nogai, produced in editions of 50; 2006; \$4000 unframed.*

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