

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART RECEIVES MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2012 EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

**CHARLESTON, SC** – The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts recently received four major awards for publications they produced in conjunction with two 2012 exhibitions.

- The *Aggie Zed: Keeper's Keep* exhibition catalogue won the American Alliance of Museums' 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Exhibition Catalogues produced by museums with an annual budget of less than \$750,000.
- The *Keeper's Keep* catalogue was one of the 50 books selected as a winner in *Design Observer's* 50 Books/50 Covers competition.
- The *Return to the Sea: Saltworks by Motoi Yamamoto* exhibition catalogue won the American Alliance of Museums' 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in Books produced by museums with an annual budget of less than \$750,000.
- The *Return to the Sea* exhibition catalogue won *Communication Arts' 2013 Design Annual* in the category for Catalogues.

The annual American Alliance of Museums' Museum Publications Design Competition recognizes excellence in the graphic design of museum publications and is the only national, juried competition of its kind. According to AAM, "Winners are chosen for their overall design excellence, creativity and ability to express an institution's personality, mission, or special features." *Design Observer's* 50 Books/50 Covers competition date back to 1924. This survey of the best in book design represents perhaps the longest-standing legacy in American graphic design. *Return to the Sea* has been selected by the 2013 Communication Arts jury to appear in *Design Annual 54*, the September/October issue of *Communication Arts*. Both catalogues were designed by Gil Shuler Graphic Design.

### ABOUT THE AGGIE ZED: KEEPER'S KEEP EXHIBITION

Curated by Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute, *Aggie Zed: Keeper's Keep* was on view at the Halsey Institute from January 20 to March 10, 2012. This exhibition was composed of sculpture, installations, paintings, drawings, and sketchbooks that chart Aggie Zed's unique working methods in a variety of media. Her subject matter is nothing less than the sum of human civilization, with an emphasis on our relationship to the animal kingdom. Human and animal figures collide with furniture or landscapes; rabbits sprout wheels or wings, while horses drown in collapsing scaffolding. Zed's dreamscape narratives probe the inner reaches of the subconscious mind.

In addition to an award-winning publication, the Halsey also produced a video for the exhibition profiling Aggie Zed and her studio practice. After its premier at the Halsey Institute, *Aggie Zed: Keeper's Keep* has traveled to The Visual Arts Center of Richmond in Virginia and will be going to several other venues.

#### **ABOUT THE KEEPER'S KEEP PUBLICATION**

Designed by Gil Shuler Graphic Design, the *Aggie Zed: Keeper's Keep* exhibition catalogue includes a forward by Mark Sloan, senior curator and director at the Halsey Institute and an interview between Michael Haga, Associate Dean of the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston, and Aggie Zed. The 108-page, hardcover catalogue includes six sketchbook pages and over 50 color reproductions featuring 17 paintings and 19 sculptures.

#### **ABOUT THE RETURN TO THE SEA: SALTWORKS BY MOTOI YAMAMOTO EXHIBITION**

Curated by Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute, the *Return to the Sea: Saltworks by Motoi Yamamoto* was on view at the Halsey Institute from May 24 to July 7, 2012. The exhibition premiered as a featured presentation of the 2012 Spoleto Festival USA. The centerpiece of the exhibition was a site-specific installation created entirely out of salt by the artist during his two-week residency at the Halsey Institute. The exhibition also featured a series of recent drawings, photography, sketchbooks, and a video about the artist. The video includes interviews with Japanese art curators contextualizing Yamamoto's work, and features the artists in his studio in Kanazawa, Japan providing insight into his creative process.

Yamamoto and the Halsey Institute collaborated with the Clemson Architecture Center in Charleston's (CAC.C) Studio V Design and Build class to create two viewing platforms for the installation. Studio V kept a blog of their process: <http://cacstudiov.com/2012/01/18/>

*Return to the Sea* was supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Asian Cultural Council, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and the Japan Foundation. *Return to the Sea: Saltworks by Motoi Yamamoto* is one of the Halsey Institute's traveling exhibitions. Since its premier at the Halsey Institute, the show has traveled to Loyola Marymount University, the Mint Museum, and the Monterey Museum of Art in California. *Return to the Sea* will be going to the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery at Weber State University in Utah from February 24 to April 12, 2014 and Westminster College's Great Salt Lake Institute in Salt Lake City, UT from March 10 to April 12, 2014.

#### **ABOUT THE RETURN TO THE SEA: SALTWORKS BY MOTOI YAMAMOTO PUBLICATION**

Designed by Gil Shuler Graphic Design, *The Return to the Sea: Saltworks by Motoi Yamamoto* exhibition catalogue includes essays by Mark Sloan, senior curator and director at the Halsey, and Mark Kurlansky, author of the *New York Times* best seller, *Salt: A World History*. The hardcover, 170-page catalogue has over 100 images documenting fourteen years of the artist's ephemeral projects around the world, including installations in New York, Mexico City, Jerusalem, Tokyo, and Toulouse, among others

#### **ABOUT GIL SHULER GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Gil Shuler Graphic Design (GSGD) is a comprehensive graphic design company based in Mt. Pleasant, SC that has been providing innovative graphics and identity solutions since 1985.



#### PAST AWARDS

Some other recent awards the Halsey Institute has received are the 2011 American Alliance of Museums' Museum Publications Design Competition 1st Place in Posters for the Groundhog Day Benefit Concert poster; two 2009 "Best Of" awards from the *Charleston City Paper* for the *Aldwyth: work v. / work n.: Collage and Assemblage 1991- 2009* exhibition; and a 2009 Mary Ellen LoPresti Award from The Southeast Chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America for the *Aldwyth: work v. / work n.: Collage and Assemblage 1991- 2009* catalogue.

#### TO PURCHASE THE AWARD WINNING CATALOGUES

*Keeper's Keep* and *Return to the Sea* can be purchased through the Halsey Institute for \$29.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. To purchase, contact Halsey Institute assistant director Karen Ann Myers at [MyersKA@cofc.edu](mailto:MyersKA@cofc.edu) or 843-953-4422. Members of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art receive 20% off this publication and all Halsey Institute merchandise.

#### ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is a non-collecting contemporary art museum located on the campus of the College of Charleston, on the corner of Calhoun and St. Philip Streets. The Halsey offers a comprehensive contemporary arts program that is committed to providing a direct experience with art works in various media, in an environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and learning. The Halsey Institute serves as an extension of the undergraduate curricula at the College of Charleston and as a cultural resource for the region by producing exhibitions, lectures and panel discussions, film series, publications, and a comprehensive website. In addition, the Halsey Institute seeks to foster meaningful partnerships with local organizations in order to further the reach of contemporary art within the Charleston community. Admission into the galleries and to most programs is free with the public encouraged to attend.

**Location:** The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts 161 Calhoun Street,  
**1st Floor** (on the corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC, 29401

**Parking:** Available in the St. Philip and George Street Garages

**Gallery hours:** Monday – Saturday, 11am – 4pm (Open until 7pm on Thursdays) during exhibitions, or by appointment. FREE and OPEN to the public

**Tours:** Guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute's Looking to See program.  
Contact Lizz Biswell at [BiswellL@cofc.edu](mailto:BiswellL@cofc.edu) for inquiries.

**Sponsorship:** Become a Halsey Institute Community Partner today!  
Contact Emily Rigsby at [EaRigsby@cofc.edu](mailto:EaRigsby@cofc.edu) for more information.

**For more information:** Contact the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art by calling (843) 953-HICA (4422) or visiting [www.halsey.cofc.edu](http://www.halsey.cofc.edu)

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