IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM . . .

MARCEL DUCHAMP AND THE COPY IN CONTEMPORARY ART

LYDIA WINSTON MALBIN
SYMPOSIUM

Yale University Art Gallery
Department of Modern and Contemporary Art

Friday, November 11, 2011
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Free and open to the public
This symposium has been organized on the occasion of the restoration of Marcel Duchamp’s *Rotary Glass Plates (Precision Optics)* (1920) and the manufacture of a facsimile, which makes it possible to demonstrate the original machine’s intended optical effect. The symposium features a panel discussion with artists Josiah McElheny, Zoë Sheehan Saldaña, Joe Scanlan, and Haim Steinbach. In the afternoon, there will be a demonstration of the *Rotary Glass Plates* facsimile and a summary of the history of this machine and the restoration of Duchamp’s original by Carol E. Snow, Conservator of Objects, and Jennifer Gross, the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, both of the Yale University Art Gallery.

**9:00 am**
Coffee
*Jan and Frederick Mayer Lobby*
Yale University Art Gallery
1111 Chapel Street

**9:30 am–1:00 pm**
Introductory remarks by Jennifer Gross, followed by presentations and panel discussion with Josiah McElheny, Zoë Sheehan Saldaña, Joe Scanlan, and Haim Steinbach
*Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall*
Yale University Art Gallery

**1:00 pm**
Break for lunch

**2:30–4:00 pm**
Presentation on the restoration of *Rotary Glass Plates* and creation of the facsimile, and a demonstration of the facsimile, with Jennifer Gross and Carol Snow
*Yale School of Art*
32 Edgewood Avenue Gallery

Please do not use the entrance on Edgewood Avenue. Use the marked entrance on the Yale School of Art sculpture building side of the gallery.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Josiah McElheny** makes work that builds on the traditions of glass blowing and the history of art. After earning a B.F.A. in 1989 from the Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence, McElheny apprenticed with master glassblowers in Italy and Sweden. His 1996 work *Verzeli’s Acts of Faith (Glass from Paintings of the Life of Christ)* is currently on view on the third floor of the Yale University Art Gallery. McElheny is a MacArthur grant recipient.

**Zoë Sheehan Saldaña** received her M.F.A. from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1998. Her work combines photography, craft, and digital media, and she embraces the handmade and the ready made. She exhibited her work most recently at the Malmö Konstmuseum, Sweden. Sheehan Saldaña teaches at Baruch College, in New York.

**Joe Scanlan** is Professor of Visual Arts and Director of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University. Previously on faculty at the Yale School of Art, Scanlan earned his B.F.A. in 1984 at the Columbus College of Art and Design, in Ohio. He most recently had a one-person exhibition at Wallspace Gallery, in New York. He also writes art criticism for *Artforum*.

**Haim Steinbach** received his M.F.A. from the Yale School of Art in 1973. His work addresses the relationship between contemporary art and the world of circulating commodities. Steinbach had a one-person exhibition in September at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, in New York. He teaches at the University of California, San Diego.

**Jennifer Gross** is the Seymour H. Knox, Jr., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Yale University Art Gallery.

**Carol Snow** is Conservator of Objects at the Yale University Art Gallery.