

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTEMPORARY SCULPTOR VINCENT FECTEAU'S EVOCATIVE NEW WORKS

ON DISPLAY IN FIRST SOLO MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Art Institute Hosts Eight New Objects in Latest Installment of the *focus* Series

Contemporary artist **Vincent Fecteau** will premiere a series of recent sculptures at the Art Institute of Chicago this month. ***Focus: Vincent Fecteau: New Work***, the latest exhibition in the museum's acclaimed contemporary art series, will feature Fecteau's eight new sculptures—a body of work that consumed the artist's near-constant attention for almost two years. The work will be on view in gallery 139 from **September 11 through November 30, 2008**.



Vincent Fecteau (b. 1969) is a San Francisco-based artist known for meticulously handcrafted papier-mâché sculptures. Typically modest in size, his spatially complex objects deal with liminal forms that on the one hand reflect his interest in architecture and design, while on the other stand as uncompromising, wholly distinctive creations. Using a labor-intensive process of subtraction and addition, Fecteau typically works on a group of objects simultaneously, which often takes a year or more to complete.

Focus: Vincent Fecteau: New Work debuts eight tabletop-size sculptures made of papier-mâché and acrylic paint that highlight recent formal and perceptual developments in his practice. Without relying on preparatory sketches, the artist begins with the same spherical shape, which

is then contorted and reworked, rendering the original form barely recognizable. In a departure from the work of preceding years, collage elements are no longer present, and his usual muted palette of grays, tans, and blacks have given way to brightly colored acrylics that obscure and complicate a clear reading of the form. Each piece is a mass of contiguous undulating planes, labyrinthine ramps and folds, and organic interior pockets that have been painted with one, two, or three coats of peculiar shades of red, yellow, blue, purple, green, and orange, sometimes defined against sections of black or white. The sculptures are not only his largest works but are among the artist's most vivid and visually interesting achievements to date. Fecteau's layering of materials and textures reveals a creative process that is an apparent study in opposites—minimal and ornate, strong and lightweight, random and planned, discordant and harmonious.

Vincent Fecteau has had solo gallery exhibitions at greengrassi, London; Feature, New York; Mark Foxx, Los Angeles; and Paule Anglim, San Francisco. He was also featured in many group exhibitions, in particular the 2002 Whitney Biennial. *focus: Vincent Fecteau: New Work* is the artist's first solo exhibition in a major museum.

***Vincent Fecteau: New Work* is curated by James Rondeau, Frances and Thomas Dittmer Chair of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago. This exhibition is made possible by a grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Ongoing support for *focus* exhibitions is provided by the Alfred L. McDougal and Nancy Lauter McDougal Fund for Contemporary Art.**

IMAGE CREDIT: Vincent Fecteau. Untitled, 2008. Courtesy of the Artist and Feature Inc., New York.

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MUSEUM HOURS:

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Thursday

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE EVENINGS THURSDAY AFTER 5:00 p.m.

FREE FEBRUARY 1 TO 28

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

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Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free; members always free. Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of

Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at:
<<http://www.artic.edu/aic>><http://www.artic.edu/aic>

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago,s Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.