



For Immediate Release
Monday, March 13, 2006

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LOCAL ARTIST ADDS FLAIR TO CONVENTION CENTER'S ART PROGRAM
Unique installations on display at BCEC in preparation for Summer Street Solstice

As the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) gears up for its Second Annual Summer Street Solstice art exhibit, a new installation of large-scaled artworks by artist Ricky Bernstein is currently on display at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC). Entitled "Kitchen Dreams," the exhibition will be shown through the month of August as part of the MCCA's art program.

"We are thrilled about the development of the art program in the past year and believe that the BCEC, with its several hundred thousand visitors yearly, is a great place for artists to exhibit their work," said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. "Kitchen Dreams" provides new flavor to the program and Summer Street Solstice, and it is great to have such an established, local artist like Ricky Bernstein using the convention center as a forum to show off his talents."

Eight oversized painted-glass wall installations hang in the Level One West corridor, near the BCEC's busy food court, creating a gallery of bright colors and unique storytelling. "Kitchen Dreams" is a nostalgic cartoon interpretation of the 1950s, the era of the artist's childhood. Bernstein, a western Massachusetts-based artist, uses a combination of sculpted, hand-blown glass, aluminum and mixed media objects to depict the events of daily life, such as household chores and socializing. The artworks, which were completed between 1997 and 2006, capture a sense of humanity and classic Americana.

"My work is full of complicated techniques quite necessary for the end result, but meant only as support," said Bernstein. "The narrative and storyline are ultimately always the most important parts."

Prior to its appearance at the BCEC, "Kitchen Dreams" was on display at the Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft, in Brockton, MA. Bernstein's artwork was brought to the BCEC with the collaborative efforts of Gretchen Keyworth, the museum's executive director, and the MCCA.

The second annual Summer Street Solstice is scheduled to open June 21st, and it is a celebration highlighting the featured artwork at the BCEC. Along with "Kitchen

Dreams,” this year’s celebration will feature Boston Sculptors Gallery, murals by Artists for Humanity, South Boston Arts Association, Fort Point Arts Community and a juried exhibition of the best, large-scale contemporary art in the region.

During the next six months, 27 events will take place at the BCEC, bringing in more than 155,000 attendees, all of whom will have viewing access to Bernstein’s display, as well as the other art exhibits throughout the building.

The art program at the BCEC includes a rotating art exhibition, which features professional artists from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The First Annual Summer Street Solstice launched the program in 2005 and demonstrated how rich and diverse the local arts community is in the Boston area. The BCEC provides a strong backdrop on which to showcase these local talents, while raising cultural awareness and community support for the arts.

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