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CONTACT: Joyce Linehan, 617.282.2510 x 1, [joyce@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:joyce@ashmontmedia.com)

David Bloodsworth, 508.588.6000 x 118, [communications@fullercraft.org](mailto:communications@fullercraft.org)

**FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS**  
***THE PERFECT FIT— SHOES TELL STORIES***  
**JUNE 6, 2009 — JANUARY 3, 2010**

**Fuller Craft Presents a Show about Shoes, Exploring the Way Shoes Tell Stories,  
While Celebrating the Region's Rich Manufacturing History**

*Press preview with curator and museum director Friday, June 5, 11 a.m.*  
*RSVP to Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510 x 1, [joyce@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:joyce@ashmontmedia.com)*

(Brockton, Mass.) Fuller Craft Museum presents *The Perfect Fit—Shoes Tell Stories*, a new exhibition that explores the cultural meanings of shoes, presenting imaginative and provocative objects of every size and craft medium. The exhibition opens June 6, 2009 and runs through Jan. 3, 2010, and was curated by Wendy Tarlow Kaplan, an independent curator whose family has strong ties to Brockton's legendary shoe manufacturing industry. After its premiere at Fuller Craft, this show will travel to other U.S. cities, dates and locations to be announced.

The exhibition will contain approximately 120 objects from over 100 artists from all over the U. S. plus Canada and Israel. Featured Massachusetts artists include Lynne Allen (Boston), Michael Boroniec, Sergei Isupov (Pittsfield), Ali Cann-Clift (Chelsea), James Ellis Coleman (Natick), Patricia Delaney (Abington, born in Brockton), Nina Fletcher (Essex), Judy Haberl (Newtonville), Ken Hruby (South Boston), Silas Kopf (Northampton), Diane Lamb-Wanucha (Medfield), David Lang (Wayland), Marga Lianko (Cambridge), Laurie Miles (Ipswich), Gwen Murphy (Acton), Marilyn Pappas (Cambridge, born in Brockton), Beverly Rippel (South Easton), Jessica Straus, M.L. Van Nice (Somerville), Lois Tarlow (Newton, born in Brockton), and Nicole Tourangeau (Brockton). In addition, artists from the other five New England states are represented. All objects in the exhibit were created after 2003.

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft, is uniquely poised to present this comprehensive and adventurous exhibition. Fuller Craft is dedicated to the objects and insights that inspire viewers and artists to explore ideas through contemporary craft. In this show, shoes express more than their role as footwear; they contain multiple meanings that speak

to issues of gender, sexuality, race and class. Fuller Craft Museum also treasures its place as a member of the Brockton community, and is thrilled to be able to celebrate the city's rich shoe manufacturing history by creating an exhibition that places shoes in a cultural context. Brockton was the largest U.S. producer of shoes during the Civil War and had a large and vibrant shoe industry until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

“This exhibition lies at the intersection of several important pieces of Fuller Craft’s identity and mission,” said Museum Director and Chief Curator Gretchen Keyworth. “Brockton has a storied and bittersweet history with shoes, from its early days as a thriving center to the closing of the last remaining footwear production facility last month. But the exhibition isn’t about history. This is a very contemporary exhibition that asks us to look at what shoes say about us, our values, institutions, preconceptions and civilization.”

WENDY TARLOW KAPLAN studied at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and has worked as a curator for more than 30 years, specializing in contemporary art. She has served on the Collections Committees of the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park and Fuller Craft Museum, written for *Art New England*, *The Encyclopedia of New England Art*, and juried regional art exhibitions. She recently co-curated an international traveling exhibition, “From the Kilns of Denmark: Contemporary Danish Ceramics,” which included a scholarly catalogue. She serves as curator for the Kniznick Gallery of the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University.

### **About Fuller Craft Museum**

Fuller Craft Museum, Inc., New England’s only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak St., Brockton, Mass. The Museum and Museum Shop are open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. artKitchen, the café at Fuller Craft is open Tuesday – Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission to Fuller Craft is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, free for members and children 12 and under. Admission is not required for the café and admission free for all, every Wednesday night from 5 to 9 p.m. Tours are available. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please call 508.588.6000 or visit [www.fullercraft.org](http://www.fullercraft.org). Fuller Craft Museum is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Digital images available for download here:

[http://www.fullercraft.org/pressimages\\_perfectfit.htm](http://www.fullercraft.org/pressimages_perfectfit.htm)

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*Fuller Craft Museum, New England’s home for contemporary craft*