



**Contact:** Kristin Villiotte, Communications Director  
508.588.6000 x118

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**THOMAS MANN: STORM CYCLE  
AN ARTIST RESPONDS TO HURRICAN KATRINA  
APRIL 7 – JUNE 17, 2007**

**Brockton, MA** – The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast in 2005 prompted several artists to react and respond with new works of art. One of the most passionate and heartfelt creative responses is a series of assemblages by New Orleans artist Thomas Mann. Feeling an emotional urgency to understand and respond to the devastation of his hometown, Mann created an installation assembled entirely of materials gathered from the streets of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast post-Katrina. *Thomas Mann: Storm Cycle*, on exhibit at Fuller Craft Museum April 7 – June 17, 2007, features twenty-one panels, each with a removable brooch situated within a collage of found objects and photographs depicting the aftermath of the hurricane.

Known for innovative jewelry and sculpture crafted in the artist’s self-described “Techno-Romantic” style, Thomas Mann’s work combines industrial aesthetics and materials with evocative romantic themes and imagery. In *Storm Cycle*, however, his work deals with realistic, and often horrific, scenes. Titles as direct as “Will it Float?,” “Markings No. 1: I Will Shoot Your Sorry Ass,” “Local Hero” and “Angel” brand the panels as both a heartfelt aftershock diary and an implacable documentary of the devastated emotional and material landscapes left behind by Hurricane Katrina. Shattered walls, abandoned pets, rescue boats landing on roofs and ghostly presences are given a new wearable form in the shape of brooches and pins, while haunting photographs and accompanying narratives written by Mann describe his emotions toward the scene and the reason for each piece’s inclusion in the exhibition.

Mann says, “Most of the time I look at the role of being an artist with a joyful acceptance as my personal mission as a human being. But sometimes, being an artist can also be a burden and curse. No matter the situation, be it an incredible ecstatic event or a terrible misfortune, the most likely response I’ll have is that of being the observer, the information gatherer, the researcher.

Creating *Storm Cycle* was one of the most heartwarming events of a very intense two months filled with anguish, tears, relief, and acceptance.”

*Thomas Mann: Storm Cycle* was organized by Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, Massachusetts.

### **Images from *Thomas Mann: Storm Cycle***

For high-resolution images of works in *Thomas Mann: Storm Cycle* please contact Kristin Villiotte at 508.588.6000 x118 or [communications@fullercraft.org](mailto:communications@fullercraft.org).

Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak Street in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, Free for members and children under 18.

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### **About Fuller Craft Museum**

Fuller Craft Museum, New England’s home for 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. Craft is an art discipline that is both intriguing and accessible. Its roots are in the creation of functional objects, but today, craft has come to be more closely aligned with the inspired ideas of artists who work primarily with their hands in materials that are tactile and familiar. Fuller Craft offers a collection, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops and special events where you can literally touch the materials and objects. Fuller Craft Museum is the most exciting place to be in the world of contemporary craft.