Spillforth

An exhibition of glass and ceramic arts by Richard Hirsch and Michael Rogers, featuring texts by C.D. Wright and Forrest Gander

October 26 - November 20

Opening, October 26 - 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Cohen Gallery at the Granoff Center
154 Angell St.

Forrest Gander has degrees in geology and English literature. His recent books include the novel As a Friend, the book of poems and haibun, Core Samples from the World, and the translation Firefly Under the Tongue: Selected Poems of Coral Bracho (PEN Translation Prize Finalist). A United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow, Gander is recipient of fellowships from the NEA, the Guggenheim, Howard, and Whiting foundations. Visit Forrest at http://ForrestGander.com

C.D. Wright was born and raised in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. She has published over a dozen books, including Rising, Falling, Hovering, Like Something Flying Backwards: New and Selected Poems, and a text edition of One Big Self: An Investigation, focused on Louisiana inmates. With photographer Deborah Luster, Wright won the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize for One Big Self from the Center for documentary Studies at Duke University. She has published several book-length poems including Deepstep Come Shining and Just Whistle. Wright has composed and published two state literary maps, one for Arkansas, her native state, and one for Rhode Island, her adopted state. Wright is former State Poet of Rhode Island and with poet Forrest Gander she edited Lost Roads Publishers for over twenty years.

Richard Hirsch is a ceramic artist and educator who has long received recognition for his art work, which explores the evolution of the vessel form through a contemporary twist on various cultural traditions. In the 1970s and 1980s, he reflected on and reinterpreted the aesthetics of ancient Chinese ritual bronze tripod vessels, choosing the Raku medium to echo their richly patinaed surfaces. In the 1990s, his art continued to evolve with a transformation to larger sculptural vessels incorporating numerous forms and implements from the history of human civilization, notably blades, mallets, and the mortar and pestle. For the past couple of decades, he has also incorporated forged iron, glass, and other mixed-media elements into his uniquely stacked and arranged series of vessel explorations, adding elements of lightness and transparency/translucency to create a visual and philosophical contrast to the opaque nature of clay.
During his thirty-year teaching career, Hirsch has been a faculty member of two prominent craft programs, the Program in Artistry at Boston University and, currently, the School for American Crafts at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Many of his former students have established their own outstanding careers in the contemporary ceramics field.

Michael Rogers is a glass artist who works primarily with blown and cast glass, fabricating sculptural objects and installations. For the past six years, he has taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology; previously, he lived and taught in Japan for eleven years, and was head of the glass program at the Aichi University of Education. His work is exhibited internationally and is in the permanent collections of museums in the U.S., Japan, Spain, Mexico, Taiwan and the Ukraine. “With my work I hope to create non-linear narratives using objects much like a poet uses words,” he says. “The implied meaning of objects changes when combined, and the visual reading of the work becomes more than the sum total of its part, a new invention evoking multiple associations in the mind of the view. Glass, with its transparency and translucency as a material, is at once there and not there, making it the perfect poetic material to try to capture the fleeting.

Also featuring Gary Schnackenberg (Concept and Project Coordination), Matt Fagen (Electronic Design and Actualization) of Formosa Labs, Taipei, and the Pa2Hz, an electronic device created by Formosa Labs that provides sonification of realtime barometric pressure data. It was inspired by Forrest Gander and C.D. Wright’s poem “Storm and Stress” and Michael Rogers’ storm glass sculptures. The Pa2Hz was prototyped during the turbulent Typhoon Saola in the summer of 2012.