

## **New Pictures 3: James Welling, *Glass House* Opens August 19, 2010**

Third solo exhibition in MIA's new photography series presents Welling's experimental photographs.



James Welling, *5912*, 2008, Inkjet print, Courtesy Regen Projects, Los Angeles

### **MINNEAPOLIS, JULY 20, 2010**

The third exhibition in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' new photography series featuring groundbreaking contemporary artists presents the innovative work of Los Angeles photographer James Welling. On view from August 19, 2010, through March 7, 2011, "New Pictures 3: James Welling, *Glass House*" showcases an elegant photographic series of Philip Johnson's modernist architectural masterpiece, *Glass House* (1949). Using a digital camera and color filters, Welling experiments with new possibilities for architectural photography, capturing the



James Welling, 0775, 2006, Inkjet print, Courtesy Regen Projects, Los Angeles

luminous effects of Johnson's glass-skinned structure at different times and with changing light conditions over a three-year period (2006–2008.) These atmospheric works reveal the ambiguity between the interior built space and exterior natural space evoked by Johnson's home. These pictures suggest a physical experience of space and form that is unique in architectural photography.

"James Welling has been producing groundbreaking work since the 1970s that possesses a rare combination of conceptual depth and technical skill. Through the last three decades, he continues to challenge himself as a photographer and offers viewers new discoveries through thoughtful and visually arresting photographs that suggest overlooked aspects of the medium," said curator David E. Little. "In the last five years, he has taken on the challenge of architecture and produced a body of work that offers a new take on representations of architecture within a natural site. His experimental use of color and light to explore spatiality makes him a particularly important artist to feature in the MIA's 'New Pictures' series."

Welling, a professor in the Department of Art at the University of California, Los Angeles, first gained national recognition in the 1970s and 1980s for his carefully staged black-and-white photographs employing such unconventional mediums as pastry dough, gelatin, and tinfoil. These early works spoke to the role of the photographer in staging the vision and narrative of each picture. Welling's work has been exhibited internationally and was the subject of a retrospective exhibition, "James Welling Photographs, 1974–1999."

Welling will be the featured speaker in the MIA's second annual Arnold Newman Lecture on Contemporary Photography on Thursday, October 14, at 6 p.m. in the museum's Pillsbury Auditorium. Focusing on twenty-five photographs from 1970 to 2010, he will trace his multidisciplinary interests in video, sculpture, dance, and painting and show how they informed his approach to photography. The Arnold Newman Lecture Series is made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Arnold and Augusta Newman Foundation.

### **ABOUT THE "NEW PICTURES" SERIES**

Inaugurated in the fall of 2010, the "New Pictures" series features work by leading media artists from around the world every fall and spring. The series highlights the vital experiments in photography and new media undertaken by artists who grapple with making images that address contemporary culture. These exhibitions are distinguished by their dual focus on presenting cutting-edge artists from around the world, and helping audiences understand and explore the art-making process. Past "New Pictures" artists include Noriko Furunishi and Marco Breuer; Welling is the third artist to participate in the series. Generous support for the "New Pictures" series is provided by H.B. Fuller.

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### **ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), home to one of the finest encyclopedic art collections in the country, houses more than 80,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history. Highlights of the permanent collection include European masterworks by Rembrandt, Poussin, and van Gogh; modern and contemporary painting and sculpture by Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian, Stella, and Close; as well as internationally significant collections of prints and drawings, decorative arts, Modernist design, photographs, textiles, and Asian, African, and Native American art. General admission is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee. Museum hours: Sunday, 11 A.M.–5 P.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.; Thursday, 10 A.M.–9 P.M.; Monday closed. For more information, call (612) 870-3000 or visit [www.artsmia.org](http://www.artsmia.org).