

THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY IS REQUESTED...

# an intimate evening with Fred Wilson

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010

Eighteen years after Fred Wilson created his groundbreaking *Mining the Museum* exhibition in Baltimore, the Contemporary Museum welcomes back one of its most distinguished alumni!

THIS INTIMATE EVENING WITH FRED WILSON HONORS ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED FIGURES OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND RAISES VITAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF GROUNDBREAKING ARTISTS AT THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM

Other Special Guests Include:

**George Ciscle**, FOUNDED DIRECTOR OF THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM

**Lisa Corrin**, CURATOR OF *Mining the Museum* AND THE FIRST CURATOR OF THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM



## About Fred Wilson

One of the Contemporary Museum's early exhibitions was *Fred Wilson: Mining the Museum* (1993), a collaboration with the Maryland Historical Society that involved Fred Wilson's study of the Society's holdings and his dramatic reinstallation of the collection. In this, his first museum project, Wilson's working method at the Historical Society was, in effect, to "mine" the institution's archives, permanent collection, and storage areas, and to present an exhibition of his own devising. Unearthing repressed meanings and untold narratives, *Mining the Museum* revealed how the documenting of history and the curating of artifacts could be understood as powerful acts of selection, exclusion, and interpretation. In keeping with the Historical Society's style of exhibition design, Wilson created an installation of the museum's collection objects that recontextualized over 100 historical artifacts. Through striking juxtapositions, which included slave shackles encased with fine silver, a Ku Klux Klan hood presented in a baby carriage, and Victorian chairs placed around a whipping post, Wilson's provocative installation raised questions about how museums represent the African-American and Native-American experience.

Commenting on his unorthodox artistic practice, Wilson has said that, although he studied art, he no longer has a strong desire to make things with his hands. Wilson writes:

**"I get everything that satisfies my soul from bringing together objects that are in the world, manipulating them, working with spatial arrangements, and having things presented in the way I want to see them."**

With this approach, Wilson questions—and forces the viewer to question—how curators shape interpretations of historical truth, artistic value, and the language of display, as well as the kinds of biases our cultural institutions reinforce. For its bold installation that forged new paths for historical interpretation and museum display, *Mining the Museum* was named "Exhibition of the Year" in 1993 by the American Association of Museums.

Wilson's work has also been featured in over 100 group exhibitions, including the 50th Venice Biennale (2003) as the American representative, the Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial Exhibition (1993), and the 4th International Cairo Biennale (1992). The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Wilson was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow in 1999.

## The Location

We return to the original location of Fred Wilson's Contemporary Museum exhibition:  
Maryland Historical Society  
201 West Monument Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Complimentary parking is available in the lot of the Maryland Historical Society. Cars enter on Monument Street.

## The Program

Begins at 6:45 PM

Cocktails

Seated Dinner catered by Linwoods

Illustrated Talk by Fred Wilson

Live Art Auction

Afterglow

After dinner drinks and an early look at the Contemporary's new exhibition  
*Bearing Witness: Work by Bradley McCallum & Jacqueline Tarry*

## The Auction

Works by ten of the Contemporary's most well-known exhibiting artists from the past 20 years.

A preview of Auction works will be available soon at  
[www.contemporary.org](http://www.contemporary.org)

Business/Cocktail Attire

FRED WILSON  
MINING THE MUSEUM, WHIPPING POST, 1993  
PHOTO: MARY CONNOR AND ANNA SOBASKI



## The Tickets

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

#### NUMBER OF TICKETS

\_\_\_\_\_ \$300 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS FOR MEMBERS [LIMIT 4 TICKETS]

\_\_\_\_\_ \$350 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS FOR NON-MEMBERS\*

### PATRON TICKETS

ALL PATRON TICKETS INCLUDE A 6 PM PRE-EVENT CHAMPAGNE TOAST WITH FRED WILSON.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 PATRON TICKETS\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 INDIVIDUAL SEAT AT FRED WILSON'S TABLE. (LIMITED AVAILABILITY!)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3,000 YOUR OWN TABLE FOR SIX

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 EVENT SPONSOR STATUS AND YOUR OWN PRIME-LOCATION TABLE FOR EIGHT (CALL US FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT SPONSOR BENEFITS)



FRED WILSON  
MINING THE MUSEUM, METALWORK, 1993  
PHOTO: MARY CONNOR AND ANNA SOBASKI

## Host Committee

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