

Andrea Rosen Gallery

On the heels of Andrea Rosen Gallery having recently announced a number of significant accomplishments pertaining to our gallery's artists, we are thrilled to announce yet another—that Josiah McElheny has been named a 2006 MacArthur Fellow. The culmination of an intensive review of the creative efforts and intellectual promise of each Fellow, McElheny is honored as a pioneer at the absolute cutting edge. His ambitious body of work is recognized for its potential to make significant cultural and conceptual contributions by imbuing his objects with social, historical and political concerns that are at once challenging and beguiling, and recasting the tradition of glass making within the history of art.

While unrelated, it seems appropriate to contextualize this honor with a mention of McElheny's upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Opening in February 2007 and tentatively titled *Crystalline Utopia*, the project continues his longstanding investigation of the history and implications of twentieth-century modernism. A room-size sculptural installation, it re-imagines the mid-twentieth century notion of a utopian world of glass architecture. Using the work of architect Bruno Taut and writer Paul Scheerbart as a starting point—in particular Taut's mail art project *The Crystal Chain* and Paul Scheerbart's novels *Glass Architecture* and *The Gray Cloth*—the installation is part homage and part critique of their post-World War I theories of individual and social harmony. The installation consists of abstract architectural forms made of assembled crystal-shaped glass that are displayed on a "landscape model" base of illuminated glass panels, and lit from above and within by an array of changing colored lights.



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