

HELLER

GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

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LIZ COLLINS: HAVING IT ALL

featuring a collaboration with Harry Allen

November 25 – December 20, 2014



in collaboration with



Heller Gallery in association with the American Design Club are pleased to present *Having It All*, an exhibition of works by American artist and designer Liz Collins. A curated selection of original pieces as well as limited edition items from her Optic Home Collection, will be on display, arriving just in time for the holidays. The exhibition will also feature pieces made in collaboration with designer Harry Allen.

In both her artworks and her home textiles Collins uses the universal language of bold lines, repeated stripes and jagged lightning bolts in vivid colors. The hard-edged shapes act like the caution chevrons and zig zags on trucks or traffic signage that warn you to watch out. Layers of pattern assert themselves with explosive energy and create a deep clash of alluring sensuality. Everything is covered with pattern and the space is made to glow.

Recognized internationally for her use of machine knitting to create groundbreaking clothing, textiles, and installation, Collins has elevated the relevance of yarn and extended the use of textiles

beyond the body and moved them into space and architecture. In her work art and applied design coexist: a painting is a rug is a blanket is a dress is wallpaper.

Liz Collins is perhaps best known for her multi-media, site-specific installation and performance project KNITTING NATION initiated in 2005. In 2006 she was named United States Artists Target Fellow in Crafts and Traditional Arts. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions and included in group exhibitions featured among others at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; the Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN; Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York, NY; the Museum of FIT, New York, NY; the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, MN; the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; and the Tang Museum in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Collins designed her own fashion line from 1999-2004, showing during New York Fashion Week; becoming a member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America; and selling her collections in the high fashion designer market to influential New York style outlets like Barneys and Kirna Zabete. Collins received both her BFA and MFA from Rhode Island School of Design and was an Associate Professor there from 2003-2013. She has been a guest lecturer and critic at many art & design colleges including Pratt Institute; Maryland Institute College of Art; School of Art Institute of Chicago; Vermont College of Fine Arts; School of Visual Arts; Parsons the New School for Design; and the Carpenter Center at Harvard University.

Harry Allen established his design consultancy, Harry Allen Design, in 1993. Since he has designed furniture, lighting, products, packaging and interiors for an illustrious roster of clients. Harry's work has won awards, is in many collections (including New York City's MoMA), and is featured regularly in the media. Harry Allen does not underestimate his audience; his systematic design approach and long-standing interest in art and new materials have lead to some of the most intelligent products and interiors in the world today. For a complete listing of projects, awards and press visit www.harryalendesign.com.

Please join us for an opening reception with the artist on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.