

# Elson Lecture

## National Gallery of Art

Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW Washington, DC

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Jessica Stockholder, *Untitled*, 1994, plastic sink legs, clothing, trimming, string, yarn, wood, hardware, piece of furniture, papier mâché, plaster, wallpaper paste, glue, acrylic and oil paint, cable, silicone and latex caulking, and plastic fruit, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Corcoran Collection (Gift of the Women's Committee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art)

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## Jessica Stockholder, artist

April 2, 2015 / 3:30 pm / West Building Lecture Hall

Since the early 1990s, Jessica Stockholder has been recognized as one of the leading and most influential artists of her generation. Characterized by the colorful arrangements of found and made materials, her multimedia, site-dependent, and autonomous works delight the eye and engage the mind. Described as “paintings in space,” Stockholder’s complex installations sometimes appear chaotic at first glance but gradually reveal, with careful observation, the artist’s decisive strategies. Whether incorporating the architecture of its conception, climbing walls, hanging from the ceiling, or spilling out of doors and windows, Stockholder’s art explores new pictorial possibilities. In a single work, Stockholder may deploy an astonishing variety of materials: for example, the work from the Corcoran Collection at the National Gallery of Art features, among other media, plastic sink legs, clothing, yarn, hardware, a piece of furniture, papier-mâché, wallpaper paste, acrylic and oil paint, cable, caulk, and plastic fruit. In an additive process, after choosing products of contemporary culture, she applies painted layers in bright colors, composing hues in conjunction with their support and setting. Stockholder’s art affirms the physicality of objects and their relationship to the mind and body in diverse, connected experiences.

Stockholder currently serves as the Raymond W. and Martha Hilpert Gruner Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and was appointed chair of the department of visual arts in 2011. Previously, she was the director of graduate studies in sculpture at the Yale

University School of Fine Art for twelve years. Stockholder has exhibited widely in North America and Europe, at such venues as the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Dia Center for the Arts; Kunstmuseum St. Gallen; MoMA PS1; Open Air Museum, Bokrijk, Belgium; The Power Plant, Toronto; Whitney Museum of American Art; SITE Santa Fe; and the Venice Biennale, among others. Her work is represented in the National Gallery of Art collection by *Untitled* (1994), a gift of the Women’s Committee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Stockholder lives and works in Chicago.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Because of the East Building renovation, this program will be presented in the West Building Lecture Hall, which has a capacity of 159 people. Seating will be offered on a first-come, first-seated basis. To accommodate the considerable public interest, the lecture will be available as a live stream on the Gallery website and within the Gallery at locations to be announced. Information will be available at [go.usa.gov/33dGF](http://go.usa.gov/33dGF).

Watch live stream: [go.usa.gov/hw35](http://go.usa.gov/hw35)

The Elson Lecture Series features distinguished contemporary artists whose work is represented in the Gallery’s permanent collection. The Honorable and Mrs. Edward E. Elson generously endowed this series in 1992. Recordings of Elson Lectures are available at [go.usa.gov/ZHNh](http://go.usa.gov/ZHNh).