



Media Release

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Contact: Megan Doughty
(202) 797-3237

Innovative design exhibition at the Embassy of Australia - *F!NK Fostering Design*

An exhibition of innovative contemporary art and design will be on display at the Embassy of Australia from 11 September to 31 October.

F!NK Fostering Design highlights the role of Robert Foster, the Principal Designer and creative force behind *F!NK + Co.*, a small Australian company recognised on an international scale.

This retrospective collection features the entire *F!NK + Co.* range and celebrates the depth and diversity of contemporary Australian design practice. "Over the last fifteen years, *F!NK + Co.* has gained an international reputation as a spirited and distinctive Australian design company, and we are thrilled to be able to present this exhibition," said Jane Scott, Director of Cultural Relations at the Embassy of Australia.

"It's great to see the finished product alongside prototypes. This gives an insight into the process and challenges of making a functional and beautiful object," Scott said.

The exhibition demonstrates *F!NK + Co.*'s commitment to the local artist-designer community and beyond. Alongside a number of one-of-a-kind objects by Foster are examples of the collaborative and unconventional works he has developed with established artists who work in sculpture, glass, jewelry, installation and woodturning.

Foster graduated in the mid-1980s from the Canberra School of Art, now the Australian National University School of Art, an institution with a legacy of creative culture where the craft-arts have flourished. Working primarily with anodised aluminium, Foster experimented with manufacturing technologies as well as traditional hand-making methods.

Foster's style and flair was quickly recognized, and in 1993 a local Canberra restaurant commissioned him to produce a simple water pitcher. The now iconic *F!NK Water Jug* is sold internationally, including at the Museum of Modern Art store in New York City and Apartment Zero in Washington, D.C.

Now, with some 20 years experience in the field, Robert Foster has gained an international reputation as a silversmith and leading designer. His work is held in major national and international collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, and the Alessi Museum, Milan.

Robert Foster will be available for interview from 9 to 12 September. A number of works from the exhibition will be on sale through Apartment Zero, a Washington, D.C.-based design store.

WHO: Australian design group *F!NK + Co.*

WHAT: A retrospective collection of innovative Australian design objects

WHERE: The Gallery at the Embassy of Australia, 1601 Massachusetts Ave NW

WHEN: 11 September through 31 October 2008