

GLASS CLAWS: PULSE POINT

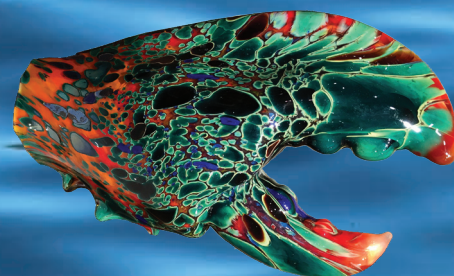
Richard Furneaux Remsen





R E M S E N

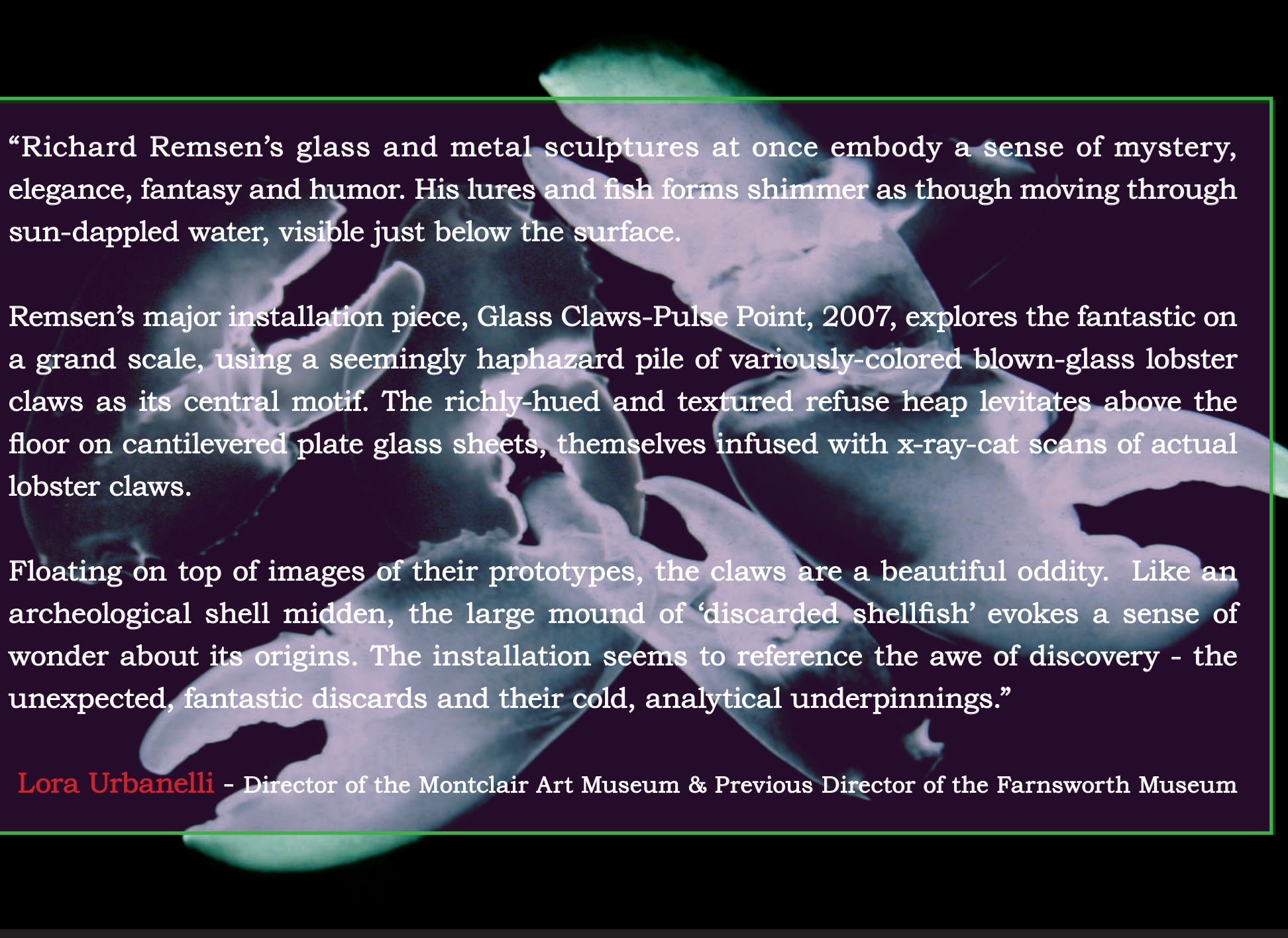
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2018

“Richard Remsen’s “Glass Claws: Pulse Point” is a beautiful sculpture that would be an excellent addition to the Farnsworth Art Museum. The installation, with its pile of discarded life-like lobster claws, brings me back to the summers I spent on the coast of Maine, teaching at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. It was a special time, when I found the inspiration and encouragement to start planning a glass center in Washington, which became Pilchuck Glass School.” - Dale Chihuly



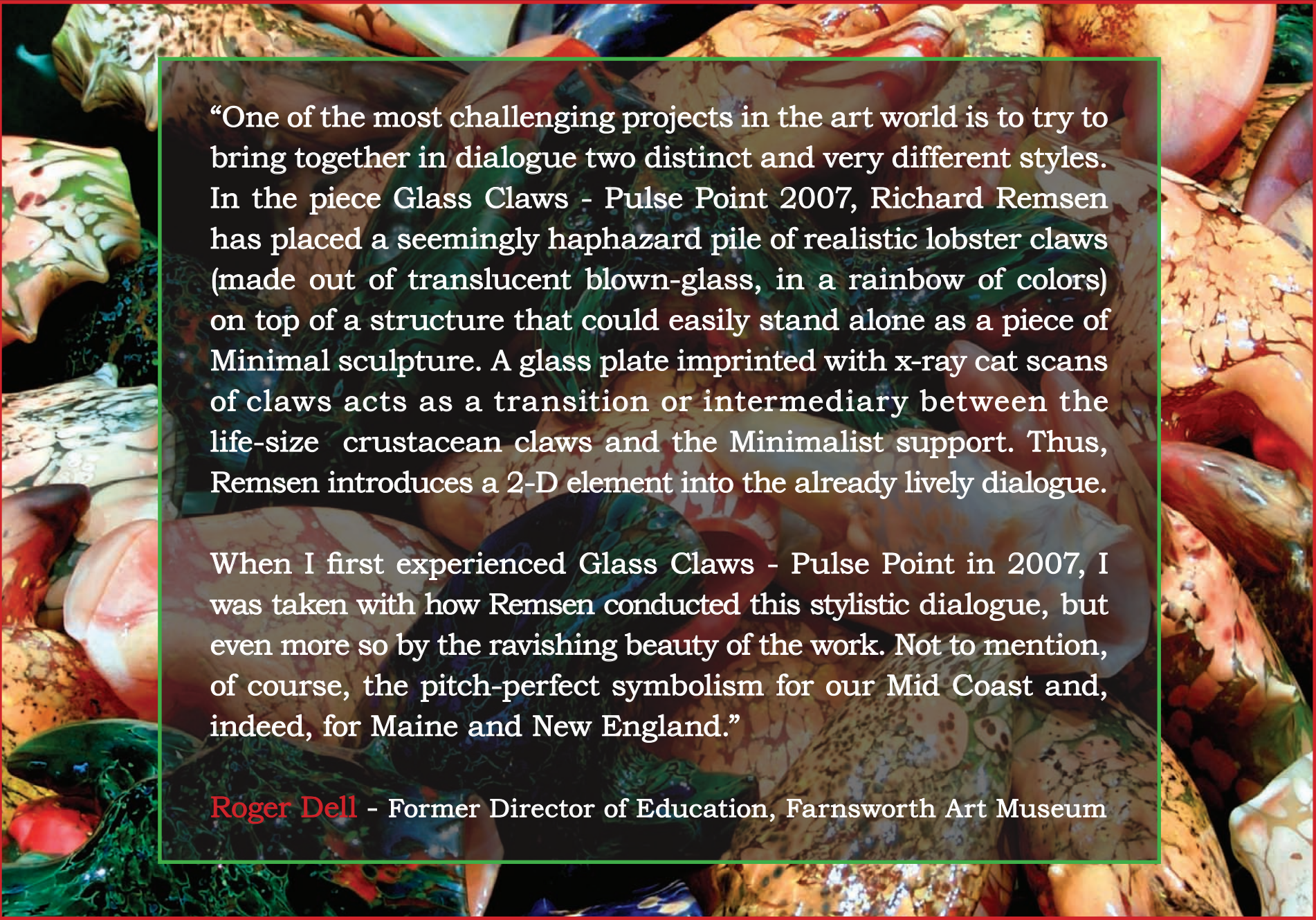


“Richard Remsen’s glass and metal sculptures at once embody a sense of mystery, elegance, fantasy and humor. His lures and fish forms shimmer as though moving through sun-dappled water, visible just below the surface.

Remsen’s major installation piece, *Glass Claws-Pulse Point*, 2007, explores the fantastic on a grand scale, using a seemingly haphazard pile of variously-colored blown-glass lobster claws as its central motif. The richly-hued and textured refuse heap levitates above the floor on cantilevered plate glass sheets, themselves infused with x-ray-cat scans of actual lobster claws.

Floating on top of images of their prototypes, the claws are a beautiful oddity. Like an archeological shell midden, the large mound of ‘discarded shellfish’ evokes a sense of wonder about its origins. The installation seems to reference the awe of discovery - the unexpected, fantastic discards and their cold, analytical underpinnings.”

Lora Urbanelli - Director of the Montclair Art Museum & Previous Director of the Farnsworth Museum



“One of the most challenging projects in the art world is to try to bring together in dialogue two distinct and very different styles. In the piece Glass Claws - Pulse Point 2007, Richard Remsen has placed a seemingly haphazard pile of realistic lobster claws (made out of translucent blown-glass, in a rainbow of colors) on top of a structure that could easily stand alone as a piece of Minimal sculpture. A glass plate imprinted with x-ray cat scans of claws acts as a transition or intermediary between the life-size crustacean claws and the Minimalist support. Thus, Remsen introduces a 2-D element into the already lively dialogue.

When I first experienced Glass Claws - Pulse Point in 2007, I was taken with how Remsen conducted this stylistic dialogue, but even more so by the ravishing beauty of the work. Not to mention, of course, the pitch-perfect symbolism for our Mid Coast and, indeed, for Maine and New England.”

Roger Dell - Former Director of Education, Farnsworth Art Museum



















‘Glass Claws’ - Explores History, Biology and Beauty

“Sitting atop a cantilevered set of plate-glass sheets, Richard Remsen’s *Glass Claws-Pulse Point*”, previously on view at the Daniel Kany Gallery, is striking on many levels. First you see the colorful and perfectly rendered lobster claws. This haphazard pile of exquisite blown-glass shells appear as larger than life replicas of discarded lobster parts.

Remsen uses layers of glass to create a mottled appearance. Most of the claws contain the coral hue of cooked lobster shells, although a handful retain their natural greens, blues and browns. Beyond these individually stacked pieces, the sculpture offers two other visual layers to explore.

The four plate glass sheets are imbedded with x-ray images of actual lobster shells. These x-rays in turn become projections on the white base of the sculpture, giving the piece an element that mixes biology and technology.

On a metaphorical level, the sculpture can be seen as an interpretation of the ancient shell middens along the Maine coast. These shell heaps remain a fascinating treasure trove for archeologists and historians alike, as they offer a window into the lives of the people who lived along the coast thousands of years ago. In a similar way, “Glass Claws” provides an opportunity to view the refuse of our lobster feasts in a new, beautiful light.”

- Avery Yale Kamila















PHOTO CREDIT:

Isaac Furneaux Remsen

C. E. Morse

Richard Furneaux Remsen

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Richard Furneaux Remsen

531 Park Street

Rockport, Maine

www.glassclaws.com

