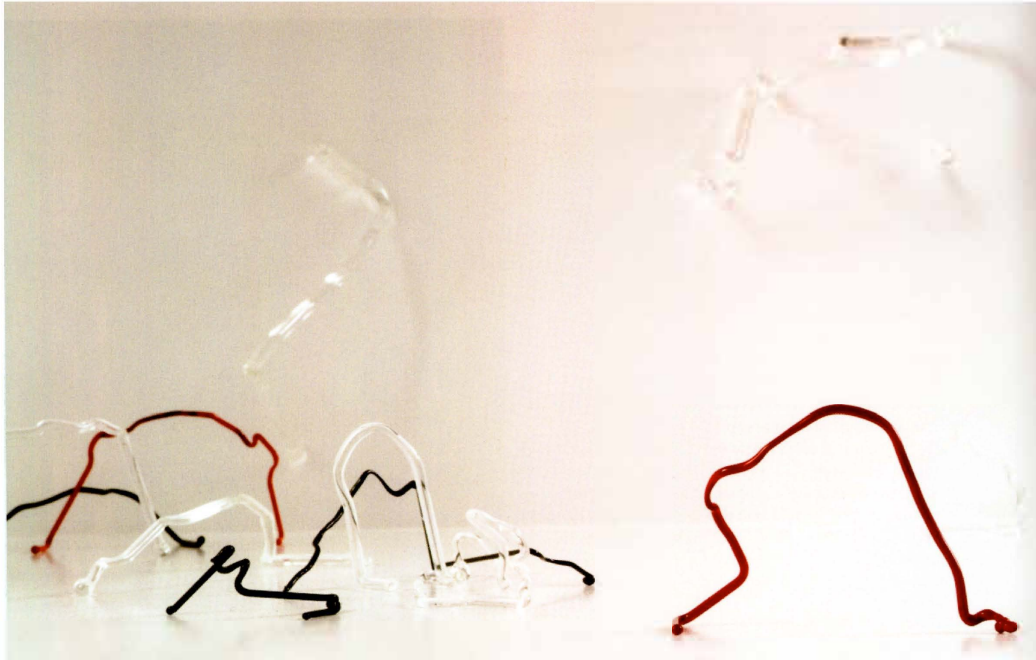


# Shattering Glass

## New Perspectives

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Sharon Louden  
*Hugs* (detail), 2007  
Flame-worked glass  
Dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist

The element of surprise, both in the placement of the works and in their astonishing range of properties and expression, is intrinsic to this exhibition. In her installation *Hugs*, Sharon Louden adheres hundreds of flame-worked rods in black, red, and clear glass to the walls, floor, and ceiling of the Museum's entry vestibule. These animated "gestures" transform a normally non-descript, utilitarian space into a buzzing, energized environment. The spindly shapes squiggle across the threshold, welcoming visitors to the Museum. Through their unique kinks and curls, Louden endows the simplest linear forms with human traits, such as humor, sadness, or joy. The anthropomorphic characters literally "hugs" the surfaces, creating communities and the illusion of movement. They appear as drawings in space rather than glass. Indeed, the forms are based on Louden's extensive exploration of the drawn line. *Hugs* is an alternative use of the medium by an artist who has not previously worked in glass, translating her earlier drawings and animations into a lively, three-dimensional installation.

Louden's artwork is created to respond to and interact directly with the Museum's architecture.