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Michael O'Sullivan

Ten objects that will amaze you

BETH LIPMAN



[“BANCKETJE \(BANQUET\)”](#)

Beth Lipman’s masterpiece, acquired by the Renwick Gallery in 2007, is a 20-foot-long oak table cluttered with the aftermath of a decadent dinner party. Rendered entirely in glass — some 400 pieces, including glass rodents — it wasn’t originally meant as interactive art. But it has turned out that way.

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Inspired by still-life painting, Lipman's work contains an implicit critique of excess. A lobster and a broken glass bowl seem to have been knocked to the floor by a careless guest. According to Renwick chief Robyn Kennedy, hardly a week goes by without museum guards having to reassure some nervous visitor who swears, "It was like that before I walked in the room."

*Through April at the [Renwick Gallery](http://www.renwickgallery.com). 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-633-1000 (TDD: 202-633-5285).
www.americanart.si.edu/renwick . Free.*

