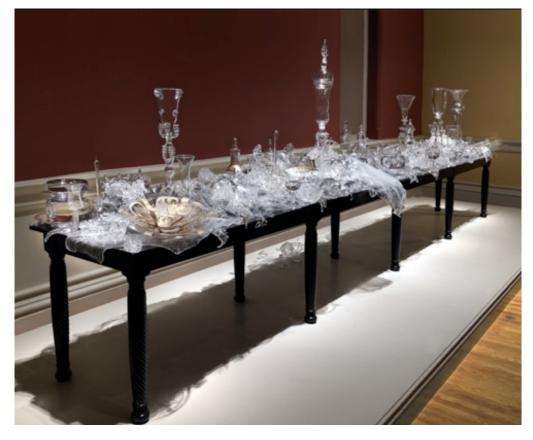
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The Washington Post, August 5, 2011 Michael O'Sullivan

Ten objects that will amaze you BETH LIPMAN



"<u>BANCKETJE (BANQUET)</u>"

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 <u>Renwick Gallery</u>. 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. 202-633-1000 (TDD: 202-633-5285). <u>www.americanart.si.edu/renwick</u>. Free.

