

# YOU'RE INVITED: RADICAL HOSPITALITY



Art collections shimmer in the dark like treasures in caves, like bank vaults, like laden pantries, glinting.

This project explores the accumulation of art, money, and food through two eras of massive wealth inequality and failed reconstruction: the Gilded Age (1870-1910) and today. As we consider the history of museums, the objects they have collected and the people they have excluded, we ask ourselves: how can they offer hospitality?

The Gilded Age gave us two lasting legacies: art museums and Jell-O. Jell-O, invented in 1897, is both a shelf-stable packaged food and a wiggling aesthetic delight. What are the parallel narratives of food storage and art collecting? When we preserve things for the future, is it a gesture of hope or a reach for control? How could we feed each other?

We might think through our pantry shelves, moving from sealed cans to open boxes to shared plates. As we move from opacity to transparency to equity, from our pantry shelves to our kitchen tables to public space, let's consider how wealth is stored or shared.

It's time to break some glass.

## John Michael Kohler Arts Center

## Broken Glass Jell-O

### Ingredients

1 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk

1 envelope of unflavored gelatin

2 3-ounce boxes of Jell-O in different colors

### Preparation

Take a box of Jell-O and dissolve the contents of the package in 1 cup of boiling water. Repeat with second box. Pour each color of Jell-O into its own container and refrigerate until set, at least 4 hours and preferably overnight. When they are set, cut them up into small blocks. Arrange the blocks in another large container, like an 8x8 pan.

In a bowl, sprinkle the unflavored gelatin into  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cold water and let it bloom. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup boiling water and stir to dissolve. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  the can (7 ounces) of sweetened condensed milk. Stir and let cool. Pour the cooled mixture over the blocks of colored Jell-O in the pan and let it set overnight.

Cut the Jell-O into blocks and distribute equitably.

## Sara Clugage

Artist in the exhibition

*Between You and Me*

