

Art Gallery Fiber Exhibit Starts November 16

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Mt. San Jacinto College Art Gallery is pleased to present *The Form is the Fiber: Artists expand the forms of fiber and fabric*, featuring artists Heather Cook, Krysten Cunningham, Ariel Herwitz and Jill Spector.

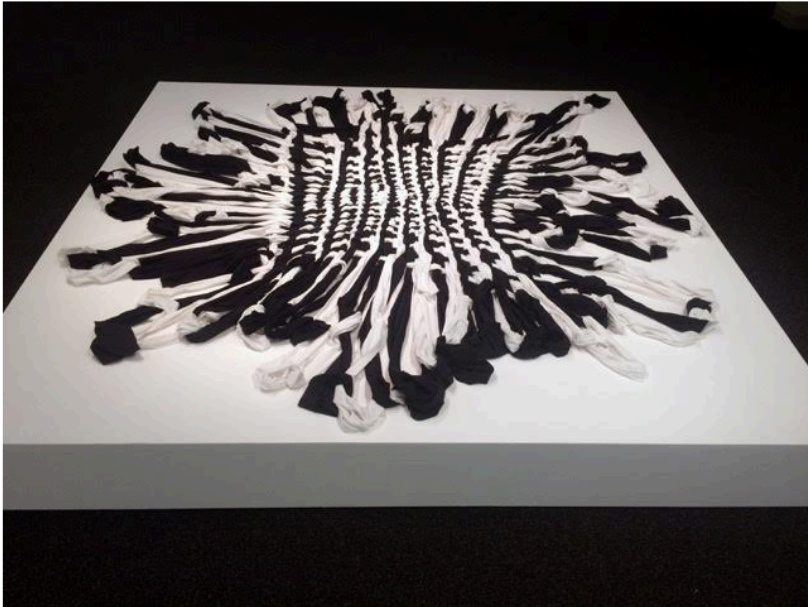
November 16 – December 18, 2015
San Jacinto Campus Art Gallery, Building 1400
1499 N. State St., San Jacinto, CA 92583
Gallery Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The four artists featured in this show are all living and working in Los Angeles. Their work engages with the material possibilities and physical properties of fiber and fabric. They stretch, scrunch, pull, stain, bleach, die, weave and unravel their chosen media in ways that is at times grand in scale and humble in material. Each artist approaches her material as sculptures but has a keen eye on painting.

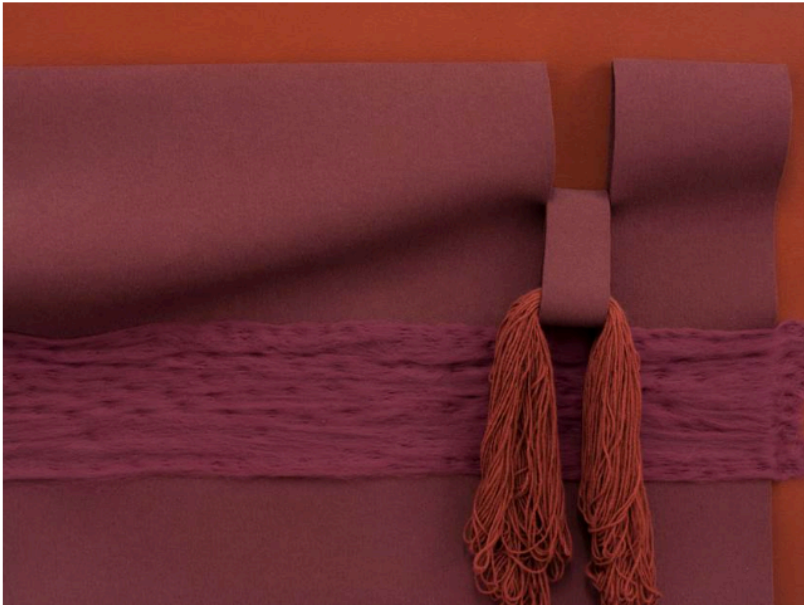
The Form is the Fiber takes its title from a reference to the physical qualities of fabric and fiber arts. As a genre, fiber arts comes out of works made in the 60s and 70s as artists started exploring materials that were not historically used as "fine art materials." In our everyday life we notice fabrics as the woven and printed patterns of cloth that we wear, sit on, and surround ourselves with. Here the artists show in very individual and profound ways the notions of fabric and fiber as expressions free from their expected forms.



Heather Cook: These wall sculptures are the result of the artist bleaching and removing the pigment from large pieces of fabric, then pinning the fabric to the wall. The bleaching of the material shows the way the fabric was once draped. It gives the cloth a feeling of memory for the way it was formed. Born in Dallas, Texas 1980 lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Cook received an MF from Art Center College of Art and Design in 2007 and a BFA from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. Cook has had solo shows Volker Bradtke in Dusseldorf, Germany, David Kordansky Gallery in Los Angeles and Ten Til Ten, Glasgow, Scotland.



Krysten Cunningham: Ideas and forms in Cunningham's work are woven together and frayed at the same time. Her primary material is fiber but she treats it like a conceptual artist. For one of her works in the show Cunningham is displaying a large woven work out of black and white spandex. Although the work has a the familiar quality of a domestic item like a potholder or a washcloth it has those familiar qualities in the same way a John Baldessari painting has the same qualities of a newspaper photograph. It is scaled up, and shifted and disarming in a way that it presents the form in an uneasy and unfamiliar way. Born in 1973 in New Haven, Connecticut, she lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. She received an MFA from UCLA in 2003 and a BFA from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque in 2000. Cunningham has had solo shows at Human Resources in Los Angeles, CA, Ritter/Zamet in London, UK, and currently has a solo show at the Crisp Ellert Art Museum in St. Augustine, Florida.



Ariel Herwitz: Herwitz's main sculpting material is wool and she often uses a process called needle felting to create new forms and shapes. These forms utilize the inherent qualities of the material but are paired with physical manipulation, or the insertion of a point of tension to break the plane of the surface. Her pieces, although drawing from traditional techniques, present themselves in an untraditional way; they drape and droop and create rigidity within tangles of material and in bursts of color. Born in 1983 in Atlanta, Georgia, lives in works in Los Angeles, CA. Herwitz received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2011 and a BA from Bennington College in 2006. She has shown her work recently at Marine Projects, Loudhailer Gallery, Greene Exhibitions and Ambach and Rice, all in Los Angeles, CA.



Jill Spector: Spector is the only artist of the group whose main sculpting material is not fiber or cloth. Her work however references the forms and draping of fabric and costumes that people wear. Her work has a real corporeal sense to it. Although a material she might use in a work might be solid it often has the quality and curves of a draped piece of fabric. Born in 1976 in York, Pennsylvania, lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Spector received an MFA from Art Center College of Art and Design in 2005 and a BFA from Syracuse University in 1998. She has shown her work recently at JOAN Gallery in Los Angeles, CA, Cabinet in Milan Italy and BolteLange in Zurich Switzerland.

For more information contact John Knuth, Art Gallery Curator, at 951-487-3585 or jknuth@msjc.edu and visit the Art Gallery website at www.msjc.edu/artgallery