

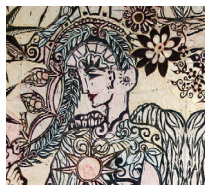


News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Collaborating Artists Create Provocative World Views with Printed and Stitched Fiber Arts



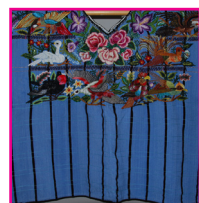
Purloin (detail)
by A Bee



El Nacimiento
by Leo Chiachio &
Daniel Giannone



*Isaac
Power(detail)*
by Wendy Osher



Lake Atitlan
by Santiago Atitlan
Paul & Kathleen Vitale
Collection

SAN JOSE, Calif., December 23, 2010 – The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will showcase the work of two collaborating teams of contemporary fiber artists in two unique exhibits on view February 8, 2011 through May 1, 2011. *Earthly Paradise: Memory, Myth, Metaphor* highlights the imaginative quilted works of A Bee, the collective duo of artists, Carrie Houseman and Darbury Novoselic. *Eden Re-imagined* presents the embroidered work of Leo Chiachio and Daniel Giannone and is the first time the two artists will have a solo exhibition outside of their native country of Argentina. An opening reception, free with admission, will be held on February 13, 2-4pm.

Earthly Paradise: Memory, Myth, Metaphor features large scale quilted allegorical textiles that are inspired by medieval tapestries, mega-fauna and life-size proportions. A Bee—the creative collective of Carrie Houseman and Darbury Novoselic—create visually complex and graphic pieces that evoke a personal and symbolic world of mythological characters, figurative elements, animals and stylized flowers. Houseman and Novoselic combine their own original prints, often mirrored and repeated with an abundance of quilted stitchery that gives the pieces texture and adds color and weight. Focusing on the beauty of the natural world, they create allegorical modern day stories that are infused with many different layers of meaning. Museum curator Deborah Corsini noted, “Their work is grand in scale and their imagery is fresh, original and passionate. It pushes the boundaries of the art quilt into new directions.”

Eden Re-imagined is an intimate look into the private and imaginary world of life partners Leo Chiachio and Daniel Giannone. Their self-referential stitched embroideries depict the artists in various landscapes, often disguised as indigenous people and include their beloved dachshund, Piolin. Their embroidered stitcheries range from intimate small scale portraits to lavishly embellished pieces with carefully rendered details of their faces, clothing and environment. Included in this exhibition is the large scale installation *Brujas Protectoras* (Protective Witches) which shows the artists in shamanistic garb framing their dog. Museum curator Deborah Corsini said, “This is a provocative, fascinating and intimate look at the work and powerful relationship of two artist partners and their unique world view. We are pleased that the artists will be in attendance at the opening reception.”

Galleries will also feature two smaller exhibitions: *Boy Code*, works by Wendy Osher, and *Modern Maya*, huipils from the collection of Paul and Kathleen Vitale.

The *Boy Code* project, comprised of eleven embroideries, investigates the power doodles that so many boys spontaneously produce, teach each other, and practice during early adolescence. The original drawings faithfully reproduced by artist and mother Wendy Osher captures the complexities and vulnerabilities boys experience facing manhood. Framed in *thangka* (Tibetan portable altar) format, constructed of cast-off clothing from men’s suits and ties, the doodles are linked to the stereotypical symbol of male power in our culture.



Modern Maya presents a stunning collection of contemporary Mayan clothing and the weavers who produced them in the first decade of the 21st century. The collection, owned by Paul and Kathleen Vitale of Vallejo, is an integral part of videos produced by the nonprofit Endangered Threads Documentaries during the past six years.

Each of these exhibitions presents a unique world view from the perspective of collaboration between partners: a collective duo, life partners, a mother and son, and a documentarian and Mayan weavers. The exhibits are further united by their lavish tactile sensuality, complex stitchery and a personal yet universal world view. Filled with rich symbolism and mysterious stories the artwork from this collective suite of exhibitions will resonate with all audiences.

Exhibition-Related Programming:

Workshop Argentina: with Chiachio and Giannone, February 12, 10 am - 5pm & February 13, 10 am - 12 Noon. Using the museum's collection of historical and contemporary textile art as reference and inspiration, our two featured Argentinian artists will lead a workshop exploring new avenues of surface embellishment, design and content.

Fee \$120; members \$100. Does not include materials, see website for more information and materials list. Space is limited; advance registration is required.

Our Own Vernacular, a dialogue and gallery walk through with A Bee, February 13, 1–1:45 pm. Focusing on the beauty of the natural world, A Bee will discuss their artistic process, becoming a creative collective, and developing their own symbolic language. *\$15; \$10 members and students.*

Women Behind the Lens with Kathleen Mossman Vitale, April 17, 2–3 pm. In this lecture with assorted film clips, documentarian filmmaker and collector Kathleen Mossman Vitale will present her work with contemporary Mayan weavers and her approach to working with these women who are overcoming the daily challenges of being indigenous, female, and survivors of the horrific 36-year Guatemalan Civil War (1960-1996). *\$15; \$10 members and students.*

Reservations at www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar or 408.971.0323 x14.

The Museum of Quilts & Textiles was the first museum in the United States dedicated to quilts and textiles as an art form. In 2005 San Jose Mercury News named the Museum one of the top 10 attractions in San Jose. Museum and Museum Store hours are: 10:00am-5:00pm Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$8.00 general; \$6.50 students and seniors; and free to Museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Friday of each month. The Museum of Quilts & Textiles is located at 520 South First Street in downtown San Jose. For more information, call 408-971-0323 or visit www.sjqiltmuseum.org.

These exhibitions and related programs are funded in part by Silicon Valley Community Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Arts Council Silicon Valley in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of San Jose; and the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association.

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Editor's Note: For available images see: www.sjqiltmuseum.org/primg_winter11 and request via email at pr@sjqiltmuseum.org