



News Release

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Invisible Lineage

– New Exhibition Opening November 15, 2011 (through Feb. 5, 2012) –

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 20, 2-4pm



River Ever Flowing
by Mary Buskirk



Untitled
by Lydia Van Gelder



Rocks and Rills
by Mary Walker Phillips
(Image courtesy of the
Estate of Mary Walker Phillips)



Two Monkeys
by Katherine Westphal

SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 21, 2011 – *Invisible Lineage* showcases the work of four influential mid 20th century fiber artists—**Mary Buskirk, Lydia Van Gelder, Mary Walker Phillips, Katherine Westphal**—alongside works of four late century artists, **Pat Abrahamian, Pam Moore, Karen Hampton, and Janice Sullivan**. The juxtaposition highlights the profound influences the earlier artists had on a second generation of artists working in the fiber medium. A wide array of objects and textiles drawn from each artists' collective bodies of work illuminate the invisible lineage between the first generation of ground breaking artists and the later artists they inspired. *Invisible Lineage* opens on November 15, with an opening reception on November 20, from 2-4pm.

From the late 1950's through the 1980's these textile pioneers—**Mary Buskirk, Lydia Van Gelder, Mary Walker Phillips, Katherine Westphal**—each created a large body of work that focused on a specific technique or combined multiple processes to create their innovative works. Weavers **Buskirk** and **Van Gelder** both pushed the possibilities of the loom by creating tapestries and sculptural works or exploring ikat dyed traditions. Although **Phillips** began as a weaver, she is best known for her intricate and large scaled macramé and knitting that pushed these mediums from craft to art. **Westphal** explored surface design techniques like printing and dyeing, and incorporated paper into her hangings and sculptures. This is the first time these artists have exhibited together and collectively they provide a unique view into the textile roots of the San Francisco Bay Area and the important legacy that these women have left.

Like **Buskirk** and **Van Gelder**, weavers **Hampton** and **Sullivan** explore texture, techniques and personal identity, but use a wide variety of techniques and surface embellishments. Just as **Phillips** elevated the status of knitting and knotting, contemporary artists like **Pat Abrahamian** and **Pam Moore** continue to push art knitting with their complex and abstract knitted works, creating very different work than their predecessor. In addition to their creative link to **Phillips**, both have a personal link to the earlier artist, who was a friend and teacher.

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.sjqquiltmuseum.org.

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