



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# CHALLENGE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS THIS SPRING AT THE SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF QUILTS & TEXTILES

– New Exhibition Opening May 17, 2011 –



**Trilogy**  
by Xenobia Bailey

SAN JOSE, Calif., April 25, 2011 – Following on the well received 2008 exhibit, *Beyond Knitting: Uncharted Stitches*, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles' 2011 exhibit, **Primary Structures**, will further explore how innovative artists using simple linear elements in combination with unconventional materials can transform the stitch structures of knit and crochet into large scale and compelling art. With work ranging from the architectural to graphic abstractions, from pioneers and established artists as well as contemporary emerging artists, *Primary Structures* continues to showcase the emergence of sculptural art knitting as a 21st century medium of imaginative and cutting edge artistic innovation. The exhibition is on view May 17-August 7, 2011 with an opening reception Sunday, May 22 from 2-4pm.



**Arabesque**  
by Sheila Klein

For **Primary Structures**, Museum curator Deborah Corsini and guest co-curator and artist Adrienne Sloane have drawn work from a diverse group of visual artists working in the medium.

Corsini said, "**Primary Structures**, our second major exhibition of art knitting and crochet, examines the creative versatility of these simple techniques and its metamorphosis into a powerful and significant art."

### Featured Artists

Included in this exhibit are four pieces by **Mary Walker Phillips**, known for her seminal work in changing public perception of knitting as art. Her work provides an important thread in paving the way for contemporary knit artists like those included in *Beyond Knitting* and **Primary Structures** who continue to stretch the medium.



**Black**  
by Yvette Kaiser Smith

Best known for her jewelry incorporating textile techniques and the much sought after book, *Textile Techniques in Metal*, acclaimed artist **Arline Fisch** innovatively uses knitting to sculpt a colorful hanging garden in wire. Approaching flora from a perspective of scale and realistic detail, **Tatyana Yanishevsky** knits flowers from an oversized garden out of yarn in which each sculpture uses a variety of fibers, colors, and stitches to describe the organs of a real plant. **Xenobia Bailey** and **Valerie Molnar** delight us with an exploration of the use of color and scale in crochet and knit respectively.

**Tracy Krumm** presents work that investigates and juxtaposes historically gender-specific techniques, such as crochet and blacksmithing, questioning and commenting on identity, duality, relationships and beauty. Using industrial materials, mathematics, and the language of art and architecture, **Yvette Kaiser Smith**, crochets continuous strands of fiberglass into large geometric shapes.

**Lori Goldman's** crocheted sculptures are a study in repetition, inspired by organic forms and African Headdresses. Her graphic shields are metaphors of a woman's role as comforter while being pulled in all directions from family, children and other commitments.

Often working on a grand scale, **Sheila Klein's** quest to accessorize the urban landscape is showcased here in the architectural piece, *Textile Wallah* and a grouping of smaller complementary pieces.



With her delicate transparent fabrics of knit, British artist **Susie Freeman** encapsulates pills, shells, stones and other materials in her unique textiles of pockets. Her themes explore consumerism, the pharmaceutical industry, and the personal nature of what we keep and collect and what it says about us.

### Utility and Beauty in the American Southwest



B. Hopi Blanket

Also on view will be *Southwestern Banded Blankets: Three Cultures, One Horizon* from the collection of Jean and Roger Moss. This is a unique exhibit and the first of its type to focus exclusively on banded blankets. These utilitarian and simply striped blankets showcase the rich cultural tradition of the Pueblo, the Navajo, and the Spanish Colonial Rio Grande blankets of the “Four Corners” area of the American Southwest. United by common elements of stripes and indigo coloration these blankets are elegant in their design composition, sophisticated balance and amazing variety.

Collector Roger Moss said, “When my wife Jean and I started collecting banded blankets it was because we admired this marriage of utility and beauty and because their virtues had been long overlooked.” Curator Deborah Corsini added, “The understated simplicity of the stripes is a powerful contrast to the visual graphic intensity that resonates with kinetic movement.”

*Southwestern Banded Blankets* provides a special opportunity to examine the austere beauty and subtle variations of three traditions of these rare, well used textiles. A catalog of the exhibition will be available.

*This exhibit is supported by a grant from the Christensen Fund.*

### Exhibition-Related Programming:

Saturday, May 21, from 10-4:30pm

A hands-on workshop, “**Knitting with Wire Master Class**” with co-curator and artist Adrienne Sloane

*\$75 fee and \$15 materials fee (payable to instructor and will be collected in class) includes one spool each of 26 & 28 gauge wire. Workshop reservations and information at [www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

Sunday, May 22, 1-2pm

Curator’s talk, **Knitting Unfettered** by Adrienne Sloane

Knitting and crochet are enjoying a renaissance as artists reinterpret and liberate them from their traditional forms to create new bodies of work now being shown in galleries and museums internationally. This slide talk will cover some of the recent amazing work by established and emerging artists who are helping to change the landscape of fiber art.

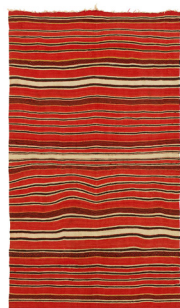
*\$15, \$10 members and students. Tickets available at [www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

Sunday, June 12, 2-4pm

### Collector’s Conversation with Jean & Roger Moss

Join the Moss’s in a casual conversation and gallery walk through of the exhibition *Southwestern Banded Blankets: Three Cultures, One Horizon* and learn about the motivation of their collecting, and the similarities and differences of the three cultures. Roger and Jean will speak from 2-2:45pm. Bring in your own southwestern textiles for a fun, informal discussion and show and tell from 2:45-4pm.

*\$15, \$10 members and students. Tickets available at [www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*



F. Rio Grande Blanket



N. Navajo Blanket



Saturday, June 18  
**Tunisian Crochet**, 9am-12pm  
**Hairpin Lace**, 1-4pm  
with Jennifer Hansen of Stitch Diva Studios

Sunday, June 26, 10am-12pm  
Plus one hour additional free knit & gallery walk through with exhibition curator  
**\*Learn to Knit with Kyle Kunnecke**

Learn to knit! Beginners will learn how to cast-on, bind-off, knit, purl, and read a basic pattern while making a cotton washcloth. Workshop will cover basic concepts, common mistakes, and some of the pattern variations possible using just these techniques. This is a great introduction to the world of knitting and will introduce you to the basic skills necessary so that you can continue with projects on your own. You will leave with a better understanding of the craft, along with a “learn to knit” scarf pattern that will allow you to further practice. No experience required! Knitting materials are included; all you have to do is show up! The instructor will be available for students who have additional questions or need further assistance for a one hour “free knit” after the workshop. Come knit with us!

*Skill Prerequisite - none*

*\$55 workshop fee includes needles and yarn; \$45 members and students. Tickets available at [www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

*\*Yarn and knitting needles for these classes are generously donated by **Skacel**.*

Sunday, June 26, 2–5pm  
**\*Banded Hats with Churro Wool taught by Kyle Kunnecke**

Knit a hat inspired by the work of the Black Mesa Weavers using beautiful handspun Navajo Churro wool. In this 3 hour workshop, you will have the opportunity to learn the Fair Isle technique, as well as how to create “jogless” stripes in the round on double-point needles. Students should already have basic knitting skills, including cast on, bind off, purl, knit, increasing and decreasing. Supplies, including Churro yarn from Black Mesa Weavers, and double-point knitting needles from Skacel, Inc. are provided. Reference materials will be provided with the course. You will leave well on your way to completing a hand knit hat that connects your passion for knitting at the Museum with the Navajo shepherds. A portion of proceeds from this workshop benefit Black Mesa Weavers for Life and Land.

*Skill Prerequisite: Basic knitting skills including cast on, bind off, purl, knit, increasing and decreasing. \$80 for class - includes handspun Churro yarn and Skacel double-point needles; \$70 members. Tickets available at [www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqUILTmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

*\*Knitting needles for this class are generously donated by **Skacel**.*



Sunday, July 17 from 1-4:30 pm

**Black Mesa Weavers: Enduring Vision, Sustaining Community**

A mini-symposium about Diné (Navajo) of Black Mesa and the Churro Wool Project with Carol Halberstadt, cofounder and coordinator, introducing Diné (Navajo) Verna Clinton, educator, artist, and author; and Lorraine Herder, field coordinator and weaver, who will be demonstrating Navajo weaving.

Also includes a special viewing of the 2009 documentary film “Weaving Worlds,” which features the work of Black Mesa Weavers for Life and Land.

*\$60, \$50 members & students. Tickets at [www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

**About the Museum**

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](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org).

*The Christensen Fund is supporting the production of a limited edition of Black Mesa Blankets produced with 100% Churro Wool. The project promotes awareness and understanding of the fiber arts of Native Americans in the Southwest and generates increased earned revenue to sustain both the Navajo’s Churro sheep herding/weaving practices and the Museum’s programs.*

*Exhibit co-sponsors include Lion Brand Yarn, The Indian Store, San Diego North Coast Knitters Guild, Stitch Diva Studios, The Knitting Room with in-kind donations from Skacel Collection, Inc. and Crystal Palace Yarns*

*These exhibitions and related programs are funded in part by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Arts Council Silicon Valley in partnership with the County of Santa Clara; 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\\_spring11](http://www.sjqiltmuseum.org/primg_spring11) or request via email at [pr@sjqiltmuseum.org](mailto:pr@sjqiltmuseum.org)