

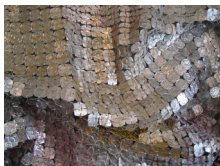


SCRAP ART

– New Exhibition Opening August 16, 2011 –

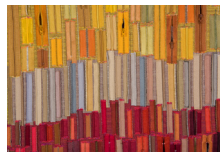
Opening Reception: Sunday, August 21, 2-4pm

SAN JOSE, Calif., July 11, 2011 – San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles celebrates the beauty and utility of upcycled fiber art in *Scrap Art*, a new exhibit opening August 16, 2011. Repurposing and upcycling are not new to the textile world. Textiles made before the industrial revolution were woven by hand, making each scrap a precious and treasured commodity as well as a source of creative inspiration. Quilters have long created from scraps, as have sewers, designers, and crafts makers, in cultures around the world. Contemporary fiber artists have renewed interest in this long tradition and it is especially timely in the current climate of environmental awareness. *Scrap Art* celebrates the entire continuum of fiber-based recycled art.



Pray Tell (detail)
by Patti Shaw

Scrap Art examines the history of the original scrap quilt, from functional historical quilts pieced from bits and pieces of leftover fabrics to works of contemporary artists that embrace the repurposed textiles and upcycled materials for their aesthetic and narrative qualities as well as their references to thrift and ecological awareness. Going beyond historical quilts and contemporary art quilts, *Scrap Art* also includes contemporary sculptural works made from many of the remnants of daily life. Drawn from the Museum's collection of historic and contemporary quilts, ethnic textiles, works by invited contemporary artists, and those culled from private collections, *Scrap Art* surveys the long and varied history of textile reincarnation.



Autumn Texture (detail)
by Wendy Hill

Culled from the Museum's collection are some dazzling one patch quilts. Composed of hundreds of tiny squares these vibrant pieces have a pixelated quality that reverberates with energy. Other historic examples of quilts come from the community outreach and private collectors and have never been seen in a museum setting. Although old, these historic quilts have a decidedly modern abstracted sensibility and their irregular materials, variety of patterns, and randomly pieced shapes add to their contemporary appeal.

A selection of historic Chinese textiles from the collection of Chinalai Tribal Textiles features early-mid 1900s Yao applique blankets made of scraps from Guangxi, China, and early-mid 1900s Miao blankets of recycled and re-woven scrap material from Guizhou Province, China. Functioning as bedcoverings their soft patina and sun washed fading gives them a timeless quality. Included in this section is the work of a contemporary Thai artist **Somporn**, who also uses old Chinese scraps to create elegant patchwork textiles.



Behind Bars
by Ellen Danforth

Contemporary artists in the exhibition include Canadian, **Barbara Wisnoski**, whose rhythmic textural color field quilts explore structure and process and the interplay of surface texture and ritual. Using hundreds of similarly hued and sized scrap fabrics her quilts have a modernist aesthetic akin to a Mark Rothko painting. Sweater sleeves and ribbed cuffs, yokes and necklines are easily identifiable in the wonderful upcycled pieces by **Ellen Danforth**. Other artists like San Jose's own **Charlotte Kruk** uses paper wrappings from candy bars, coffee bags and sugar wrappers to design fabulous fashion and political statements about what we wear and throw away, while **Sarah Nishiura's** sophisticated and elegant quilts are created from her thrift shop findings of men's cast-off shirts. **Wendy Osher's** sculpture is inspired by and composed of dirt-encrusted flags, cloth flower petals, bits of plastic and other grave decoration findings from her gathering walks through cemeteries, a profound reminder of our own frail mortality and ultimate recycling.

Old clothes, jeans, ties, shirtings, fabrics, textiles, zippers, plastic, flags, buttons, books, paper, and teabags are just some of the usual and unusual materials combined to make the fantastic, recycled creations of *Scrap Art*. *Scrap Art* embrace's the collective scrap bag of our culture and applauds the universal desire to create something beautiful from the leftover materials, the discards and throwaways of a material culture.

Curator Deborah Corsini remarks, "This exhibition features an exciting range of textiles, artists and reinvented textiles. The textural materiality and physicality of the quilts and artwork resonates with depth, transformation and personality. Inspired by scraps, leftovers and throwaways these works highlight the creative redemption of materials into powerful works of art and beauty."

In our current environmentally aware consciousness *Scrap Art* explores the creative possibilities that reuse, rework and upscale of materials, discards and scraps are an important and continuing legacy in the textile arts.



Exhibition-Related Programming:

Sunday, August 28, 1–4pm

Quilt Design from Scraps

Explore the world of scrap quilts by looking at various types of quilts, and develop an understanding that in scrap quilts value is more important than color. Learn to sort and organize scraps in your own studio. Then develop scrappy block patterns, and layouts by doing mock ups. Also covered will be a variety of layouts for some basic scrap blocks. You will go home with ideas and directions for creating your own scrap quilts.

Instructor will provide fabrics and all supplies needed. *\$60 non-member / \$50 member, Workshop reservations and information at www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*



Diagonal Postage Stamp
1885-1910
Gift of Dean G. Gross

Two Spirit Boat Workshops with Jennifer Ewing

Spirit Boats are made as totems for good luck, to give tribute to someone, or to empower the maker. The intention is to work with the boat as an archetype, a vessel that represents passage and transformation. The project is open ended and has many different approaches that offer exploration.

Saturday, September 17, 12:30pm–4pm (Adults)

All materials will be provided. *For adults: \$75 non-member/\$65 member, Tickets available at www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*

Sunday, September 18, 12:30pm–4pm (Families)

All materials will be provided. The Sunday Spirit Boat workshop is for families and the fee structure: *\$85 / \$75 for one adult and one child age 6 years and older (non-member/member), \$25 / \$20 for each additional child, \$45 / \$35 children ages 10–18 and unaccompanied by adults. Tickets available at www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.*



*One Patch Trip Around
The World*
2009
Donor by Leslie Coe

Sunday, September 24, 10am–4pm

Redesigned, Re-purposed, Recycled Clothing

In this workshop explore the creative possibilities of recycling and creating new fashions from existing garments and accessories. An inspirational trunk show of designs will illustrate the multitude of possibilities for making over outdated garments. Then with clothing brought from your own closets and scissors in hand, you will recreate something new from something used. You will leave the class with a one-of-a-kind unique garment or accessory and ideas for reconstructing more clothes from your closet.

\$85 non-member / \$75 member, Tickets available at www.sjqiltmuseum.org/calendar or call 408.971.0323 ext. 14.

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 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.