



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RECENT WORKS BY FOUR MASTERS OF CONTEMPORARY FIBER ART** *Solo Exhibitions by Polly Barton, Mary Anne Jordan, Eleanor McCain and Mary Zicafoose* *push the boundaries of their media*

SAN JOSE, Calif., August 12, 2008 – Opening November 18, 2008 at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles are four solo exhibitions of recent work by mid-career contemporary fiber artists Polly Barton, Mary Anne Jordan, Eleanor McCain and Mary Zicafoose. These artists are exploring — and pushing — the boundaries of their media: Eleanor McCain and Mary Anne Jordan with quilting, Mary Zicafoose with ikat tapestry, and Polly Barton with eccentric ikat weaving. The exhibitions run through January 25, 2009. The opening reception, free with admission, is scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2008 2-4pm.

“Fiber as an art-making medium shows its range in these exhibitions,” said curator Deborah Corsini. “These artists use fiber to make very different statements ranging from the ethereal to the boldly graphic. Barton, Jordan, McCain and Zicafoose, each with her own personal vocabulary, demonstrate their sensitivity, mastery of their medium, and their own exciting visual verve while creating intuitive, beautifully conceived, mature and original work.”

#### **Visible Presence: Polly Barton**

Polly Barton’s delicate woven wall pieces are subtle, sophisticated and elegant combinations of fine silk thread, eccentric weaving techniques and refined gradations of color. Barton pieces shimmer with a fine, tactile and otherworldly quality. Despite the complicated and time-consuming process of ikat weaving, where the warp yarns are dyed with a pattern prior to being woven, her work has a simple grace.

#### **By Chance / By Design: Mary Anne Jordan**

Mary Anne Jordan’s art quilts use simple designs with soft-focus lines and dots. Created by dying, painting and then piecing the fabric, the unexpected marks and drips that often occur from this process give depth and add richness to their composition.

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**Variations<sup>2</sup>: Eleanor McCain**

Eleanor McCain uses fundamental elements, a square and grid, to create dazzling, sophisticated graphic statements using the quilt form. In this exhibition McCain explores the arrangement and coloration of squares in her eye-dazzling and playful pursuit of variations squared.

**wrapped/unwrapped tapestries: Mary Zicafoose**

Mary Zicafoose weaves graphic tapestries of brilliant primary color blocks that transition into subtle shades of blended colors to give the illusion of depth and dimension. Using a controlled weft ikat technique, she creates a symbolic and personal vocabulary that, although contemporary, reflects the textile traditions of many cultures.

Associated with the exhibitions are two programs to be held at the Museum: A panel discussion *Threads of Wisdom: The Artful Approach of Four Fiber Artists* on Saturday, November 22, 1:30 - 3:30pm, \$15 general, \$10 members; and *Breakthrough: Strategies for Artistic Growth*, a creative-thinking workshop for artists in all media with Mary Zicafoose on Friday, November 21, 2008, 10am – 5pm; \$95 general, \$80 members. For more information and tickets to both programs visit [www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/calendar) or call 408.971.0323\_x14.

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles was the first museum in the United States dedicated to quilts and textiles as an art form. In 2005 was named 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 \$6.50 general; \$5 students and seniors; and free to museum members and children under 13. Admission is free on the first Friday of each month. The San Jose 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](http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org).

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Editor's Note: For available images go to: [www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/primg\\_winter08](http://www.sjqquiltmuseum.org/primg_winter08)