



News Release

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FIBER ART EXHIBITS REFLECT DIGITAL INFLUENCE

SAN JOSE, Calif., January 25, 2008 – In conjunction with San Jose’s ZERO1 art and technology festival, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles presents artworks created using digital technologies, historical works that anticipate digital image techniques, and an installation of digitized and engineered clothing that expresses the potential of interactive media and redefines the notion of “wearable.” The exhibitions open April 1, 2008 and run through June 8, 2008. A free opening reception will be held April 4, 6pm-8pm.

Core Memory/Peripheral Vision

Core Memory/Peripheral Vision features the work of eight of the most renowned digital Jacquard artists working today. “These artists don’t celebrate technology with their digitally enhanced textiles; rather, they harness the technology to create mostly large scale, personal explorations,” says Curator Deborah Corsini. From Lia Cook’s intricately textured portraits to Bhakti Ziek’s painterly works that create a sense of three dimensions with their merging of text and natural images, this exhibition shows a range of personal and artistic responses to developments in woven digital technology.

Digital Jacquard looms don’t weave for the artist; this is still primarily done by hand. These looms do enable artists to render any digital image in their weaving by providing a much finer-grained control of individual warp threads of the loom than can be managed by traditional weaving and human memory. Each thread is a separate element enabling unlimited possibilities for design and patterning. *Core Memory/Peripheral Visions* showcases interpretations of this provocative new technology in the skilled hands of talented fiber artists.

“Many people believe that the original Jacquard loom’s use of punch cards for the storage and input of data influenced the early development of the computer,” says Corsini. “Charles Babbage himself owned a portrait of Jacquard that was created on a Jacquard loom, suggesting that the weaver’s work influenced his thinking.” Other artists featured in the exhibit include Louise Lemieux Berube, Cathy Bolding, Victor De La Rosa, Sheila O’Hara, Lisa Lee Peterson, and Cynthia Schira.

In conjunction with this exhibit the Museum will present two opportunities to learn more about digital Jacquard and the artists who use this technique. In *Hand and Art: New Digital Jacquard*, four artists will discuss their individual journeys and involvement with digital Jacquard weaving. Speakers include: Louise Limieux Berube, Lia Cook, Victor De La Rosa, and Sheila O’Hara. *Hand and Art* will be presented on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 1-3pm.

During San Jose's ZERO1 art and technology festival, the Museum will present *A Mao a Minute: Real Computers as Virtual Weavers*, an illustrated presentation by artist Lisa Lee Peterson that traces the history of the Jacquard loom to the computer and back to the loom again. This event will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2008 at 2pm. Space is limited for these programs and reservations are required. Cost for each is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. For reservations, call 408.971.0323 x14.

Pixels & Pieces

Pixels & Pieces is a selection of historical one-patch quilts from the Museum's permanent collection. Constructed of a single repeated shape, these remarkable quilts are in fact an early use of pixelation to create abstract visual images. "Although their designs have a certain simplicity, these quilts resonate with movement and a kinetic energy," says Curator Deborah Corsini.

Advanced Geometry: Gloria Hansen

Advanced Geometry: Gloria Hansen is a selection of art quilts by a self-described computer nerd and one of the world's foremost experts on computerized quilting. According to Corsini, "Hansen's gorgeously and intricately designed and executed art quilts feel of-the-moment but also owe a debt of gratitude to the Op-Art of the 1960s." Hansen has mastered the use of bold geometry and concentric lines to achieve surprising beauty at the same time fooling your eye into seeing vibration, depth and motion.

Awareables: Conscious Clothing

Awareables: Conscious Clothing features artists whose works were featured in the SIGGRAPH 2007 fashion show "Unravel." Barbara Layne and research assistants at Studio subTela developed LED-embedded jackets that react when their wearers touch. Daniela K. Rosner and Kimiko Ryokai's dress knitted of recordable tape tells the story of the knitter's journey, and a video of Helen Storey's disappearing dress shows a dress constructed of a water soluble polymer which, when dissolved, turns into a liquid gel that can be reconstituted into a solid once more or used to grow plants.

The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles is the first museum of its kind in the United States and 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.sjqmilmuseum.org.

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Editor's Note: For available images go to http://www.sjqmilmuseum.org/primg_digital

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