

P R E S S R E L E A S E

contact: Joan Davidow 214-821-2522

Piece Work: fiber & multiples

January 16 ~ February 28, 2004

opens to public Friday, January 16, 8 ~ 9 pm

Mix! Series artist: Sedrick Huckaby

funded in part by Texas Commission on the Arts

The Contemporary Opens the Year with Cutting Edge Fiber Works

November, 2003, Dallas, Texas: The Contemporary begins the new year with *Piece Work: fiber & multiples*, a survey of artists working in fiber ~ handwork that includes embroidery, stitchery, weaving, and fabric as a means to these artists' expressions. As a way to enhance cultural offerings in Dallas, the exhibition coincides with the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art's Contemporary Japanese Quilts exhibition.

Piece Work explores how these Texas artists' searching use of fabric and fiber in cutting edge ways presents two- and three-dimensional pieces. These soft, domestic laden materials are inventively used to explore ideas about domesticity, gender, and memory. What is particularly interesting is that three of the artists have created installation work. Curated by director/curator Joan Davidow, the exhibition continues The Contemporary's exploration of how 21st century artists are finding meaning in today's world.

For the first time ever, The Contemporary will present an international artist along with its Texas talents. Trained at the Dusseldorf Academy of Art, Israeli artist living in Germany, Zipora Rafaelov's taut string lines laden with cut-out shapes will present a global counterpoint to The Contemporary's regional thrust.

Also showing to complement the contemporary artists, is Dallas designer, Todd Oldham, who amassed a national reputation mis-matching patterns and fabrics. His creations will be lent by the Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas, which is yet another collaborative effort behind this exhibition.

Here are some of the zany imagery artists are creating with threads and fabric:

Margarita Cabrera	small appliances stitched with felt and Velcro
Diane Granahan	mounds of delicately pink shaped pin-studded pillows
Ryan James	embroidered text on silk panels
Leigh Anne Lester	needlepoint imagery commemorating her relatives' deaths
Anne Murdock	floor to ceiling mass of delicately knitted fishing wire baskets
Todd Oldham	vintage garments by this talented designer
Laura Neaderhouser	abstract reliefs constructed with yarn
Sally Packard	personified sculptures propped and stuffed with rope

Zipora Rafaelov installation of threaded silhouettes shadowed against the wall
Ethel Shipton vinyl-upholstered sports equipment
Patty Sutherland taut line threaded with wildly colored, ratty fabric
Ann Wood room installation of suspended, jewel-encrusted, rubber fruits

Mix! Series artist: **Sedrick Huckaby**'s huge, expressive paintings of his grandmother's quilts are a stunning addition to the *Piece Work* exhibition. The *Mix! Series* of ethnically diverse artists' responses to their cultural experiences adds richness to The Contemporary's programs.

Hallworks artist: **Deborah Herring**

Initiating this series, artist Deborah Herring, was selected by Sara Kellner, director of DiverseWorks, Houston, at *Members on View 2003*, to have a small focus show of her work. Her fiber art relates strongly to the *Piece Work* exhibition.

3 D on Swiss artist:

To enhance the learning experience of looking at contemporary art, discreet wall labels help the visitor think creatively about art and life. In an ongoing series, producer Quin Mathews' video interviews with the artists will be on view.

The Contemporary presents Texas artists-of-our-day to engage audiences to think in new ways. **The Contemporary** is free and open Tuesday ~ Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and is located in the Wilson Historic District north of Deep Ellum on Swiss Avenue three blocks east of Good Latimer. Please call 214-821-2522 or email info@thecontemporary.net. **Major funding:** City of Dallas, Office of Cultural Affairs; *Mix! Series* ~ Texas Commission on the Arts.