

Media Release

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Textile Exhibition and Miller Studio Diaroma Unveiled at Miller Art Museum January 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Sturgeon Bay, WI)—January 8, 2020—Beginning January 18, 2020 the Miller Art Museum in downtown Sturgeon Bay debuts its first exhibition of the new year, which features a diverse selection of more than 35 fiber-based works. ***Textile Tableau: An Exploration of Painting with Fibers*** will be on view in the main gallery of the museum from January 18 through February 24, 2020. A free public reception is scheduled for Sat., January 18 from 3 – 4:30pm. The public is encouraged to attend; light refreshments will be served and music will be provided by [Cathy Grier](#).

Featuring eight contemporary artists, the invitational exhibition focuses specifically on artists who are usurping the use of paint by incorporating the methodologies and canons of painting as starting points for a greater exploration into fiber work. Painting with needle and thread, for the most part, the artists create textile tableaux that explore established genres like portraiture, abstraction and the landscape. Using a variety of media, together the works display techniques in quilting, weaving, embroidery, felting and wearable art.

Viewers to the exhibit will see that, collectively, Susan Hoffmann's work falls into more than one of the abovementioned genres but it is our daily connection and reliance on fiber that makes the artist choose it over paint as her medium, feeling that it is an extension of our everyday connection to fabric.

"My goal is to create art that represents the world around me, using fabrics to fool the eye," writes the Baileys Harbor-based artist. "When a viewer approaches my work, I want them to think they are looking at a watercolor painting, and then, I want them to feel wonder when they realize the piece has actually been created by layering hundreds of intricately cut pieces of fabric."

Dissimilarly, Milwaukee-based artist Heidi Parkes approaches her work conceptually, exploring memories, unrequited feelings and the search for fulfillment, which is reflected in her process of layering and transparency. The use of scraps which she refers to as 'evidence', serve as clues to what has transpired but also as a reminder that she once wanted more.

"Remindful of color field painting, I begin my work with a feeling, place, or theme," writes Parkes. "Looking to reconstruct my world, I employ aerial views, photographic documentation,

and artifacts—all the while aware that my goal is far more complex than the visual of a single point in time. The moments I choose to replicate are unique to me, and simultaneously innumerable in the lives of others.”

Collectively, the work chosen for inclusion is diverse, representing a contemporary view of works rooted in traditional craft.

Artists included in the *Textile Tableau* exhibition: Susan Hoffmann (Baileys Harbor, WI), Wendy Carpenter (Fish Creek, WI), Sandra Martinez (Jacksonport, WI), Heidi Parkes (Milwaukee, WI), Sandra Wysock (Madison, WI), Pam Collins (Staples, MN), Peter Horjus (New Orleans, LA) and Laura Shrewsbury (New Orleans, LA).

Debuting alongside *Textile Tableau* in the Gerhard CF Miller Gallery on the Museum’s Ruth Morton Miller Mezzanine (upper level) is a long-term installation recreating Miller’s Bay Shore Drive painting studio, which was housed on the second level of the Norwegian-inspired waterfront home that the artist built almost entirely by himself. Best known for his imaginative realism paintings, the display features Miller’s studio furniture, personal library of art books, painting equipment, unfinished works and additional personal effects on loan from Miller’s grandson, David G. Utzinger.

Framing the diorama is the stunning oil painting, “Portrait of Gerhard CF Miller” (1974) by close friend and fellow artist James J. Ingwersen. On Ingwersen’s painting, friend Nobert Blei penned “...He (Ingwersen) captures faces, feelings, gestures. . . a moment in a person’s life, and holds it there, skillfully in line, in composition, in color, giving it a permanence, a reality of unquestionable beauty.”

“Blei so skillfully details Ingwersen’s work, and exquisitely in image, captures the soul of the artist—the piece truly embodies Gerhard,” says Elizabeth Meissner-Gigstead, executive director. Helen’s choice to include this painting elevates the diorama and nearly brings it to life. So much so that you can feel Gerhard’s presence. I’m grateful to David for allowing the museum this opportunity to share these special pieces with the public, giving new insight and life into Gerhard’s creative process.”

Also featured on the Mezzanine are a selection of new works from the permanent collection as well as new acquisitions from 2019. Artists represented include Curt Frankenstein, Austin Frasier, Doris White, William Pribble and a special spotlight on the life of well-known and celebrated Wisconsin artist Ruth Grotenrath.

The museum is located within the Door County Library, 107 South 4th Avenue, Sturgeon Bay. Hours are Monday 10-8, Tuesday through Saturday 10-5. Closed Sunday. Admission is FREE; an elevator is available to access galleries on the Ruth Morton Miller Mezzanine. For more information about the exhibit or the museum, call (920) 746-0707 or visit www.millerartmuseum.org.

About the Miller Art Museum

The Miller Art Museum is a multifaceted nonprofit organization showcasing an array of visual art through ever-changing thematic, invitational and juried exhibits and houses a stunning permanent collection of Wisconsin art. The museum’s rich legacy of serving the community was launched in 1975 and continues through its mission to foster and inspire the creative life of the

community and to be a catalyst for enrichment through cultural, art appreciation, and educational programming for people of all ages.

Image Information:

1. Pam Collins, *How I See It*, fabric assemblage on canvas.
2. Heidi Parkes, *But, What Was it Like*, mixed media textile, quilted and stretched.
3. Heidi Parkes, *How Much Is A Lot?*, mixed media textile, quilted and stretched.
4. Sandra Martinez, *Nimble*, hand-spun wool.
5. Sandra Wysock, *Tuscan Dreams*, wool.
6. Susan Hoffmann, *Fernwood*, hand-painted fiber assemblage, pastel on cotton.
7. Peter Horjus, *JCB, A Series of Men #3*, cotton and cotton blend fabric, primarily reclaimed men's shirts, cotton batting, and cotton thread.
8. Laura Shrewsbury, *Water Lilies*, pearls, embroidery, metal chain and terminals.
9. Wendy Carpenter, *Waterfall Sculpture*, wood, dyed cotton mop cord, wool yarn, threading, steel rods.

[LINK TO DOWNLOAD IMAGES HERE.](#)

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