

September 7 - December 10, 2010 Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series , Rutgers University

The Art and Science of Happiness: Patricia Dahlman

September 7 - December 10, 2010

Mary H. Dana Women Artist Series, Rutgers University Mabel Smith Douglass Library Galleries 8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Gallery Hours: M - F 9am - 4:30pm; Weekends by Appointment

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN AND ART

The **vision** of the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art (IWA) is to transform values, policies, and institutions, and to insure that the intellectual and aesthetic contributions of diverse communities of women in the visual arts are included in the cultural mainstream and acknowledged in the historical record.

The **mission** of the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art is to invent, implement, and conduct live and virtual education, research, documentation, public programs, and exhibitions focused on women artists and feminist art. The IWA strives to establish equality and visibility for all women artists, who are underrepresented and unrecognized in art history, the art market, and the contemporary art world, and to address their professional development needs. The IWA endeavors to serve all women in the visual arts and diverse global, national, regional, state, and university audiences.

Founded in 2006, the Institute for Women & Art is actively engaged in:

* Exhibitions and public programming organized by the award-winning and nationally recognized Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series, founded in 1971 by Joan Snyder, and other sponsored events through the US and abroad.

* Educational and curricular development led by The Feminist Art Project (TFAP) website and the FARE: Feminist Art Resources in Education for K-12, college students and their teachers. (http://feministartproject.rutgers.edu)

* Research and documentation facilitated by the Getty and New Jersey State Council on the Arts-funded Women Artists Archives National Directory (WAAND), as well as the archival collections found in the Miriam Schapiro Archives on Women Artists (http://waand.rutgers.edu).

IWA Staff:

Ferris Olin and Judith K. Brodsky, Directors, Institute for Women and Art and Curators, Dana Women Artist Series Nicole Ianuzelli, Project Manager, Dana Women Artist Series and Institute for Women and Art Connie Tell, Project Manager, The Feminist Art Project

Special Thanks:

Eileen Behnke, IWA Graduate Assistant Jason Carey-Sheppard, IWA Graduate Assistant Leigh Ayna Passamano, IWA Graduate Assistant Kelly Worth, Administration, Rutgers University Libraries Tamiyah Yancey, IWA Undergraduate Assistant Patricia Dahlman's multimedia work was selected by a panel of visual arts professionals to provide a visual component to the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women's 2010-11 interdisciplinary seminar, "The Art and Science of Happiness." The theme explores how economic security, political stability, family, careers, health, community involvement, and other domains contribute (or not) to one's sense of being "happy." Dahlman's subject matter ranges across the political, social, and economic spectrums, while addressing issues of nature and society. She uses sewn and stitched forms made from canvas and colorful fabric to create both sculptural and two-dimensional works that are playful or serious, and sometimes both. The works selected for this exhibition include landscapes, abstract forms, narratives and figural works that comment on environmental destruction in her community as well as recent political events in America. They represent her visions and hopes for an improved future for society and the world. These works also relate to the University's 2010-11 Global Initiatives theme, "Ecologies in the Balance: The Way Forward." We are delighted to have co-sponsorship for this exhibition from both the Institute for Research on Women and Global Initiatives and to illustrate their annual themes with Patricia Dahlman's creative output.

Judith K. Brodsky & Ferris Olin Directors, Institute for Women and Art Every year, the Institute for Research on Women (IRW) at Rutgers University sponsors a series of activities focused on an annual theme. These events include a weekly interdisciplinary seminar for faculty, advanced graduate students, and IRW Global Scholars in which they discuss each other's work in progress related to the theme; a Distinguished Lecture Series; two semester-long Learning Communities for Rutgers juniors and seniors; and, often, a spring Symposium.

For 2010-2011, our theme is "The Art & Science of Happiness." Although the concept of happiness is becoming increasingly popular in contemporary scholarship, its definition is indeterminate and often shifting. What does it mean to be "happy"? What are the biological, physiological, psychological, emotional, social and cultural factors that contribute to making a person or community "happy"? Do these factors vary by gender, age, class, ethnicity, nationality, or sexuality, and if so, how? How do humor, laughter, economic security, political stability, friendship, family, children, careers, health, drugs, hobbies, community involvement, sex, personal fulfillment, social connections, and other domains contribute (or not) to one's sense of being happy? How is happiness expressed and represented in music, art, literature, film, performance and other domains? What does the comparative study of "happiness" across time and space tell us about commonalities and differences in the human experience?

One of the central concerns in our core programming this year is to address the annual theme by taking into consideration the many dimensions of diversity in the scholarship we produce about happiness. In the seminar, for example, we discuss cultural conceptions of happiness, the etymology of happiness in several classic and modern languages, as well as current conceptions of happiness in the urban dictionary. The seminar also explores how attention to "happiness" includes but moves us beyond "desire" and "pleasure" as defining tropes in studies of women, gender and sexuality to consider other motivations, emotional states, and ways of being. By bringing together scholars focused on the "science" of happiness with those who explore the "art" of happiness, we hope to provoke and inspire a comparative, interdisciplinary inquiry into a key motif in human experience. One of the main goals of fostering this interdisciplinary dialogue is to reflect on the ways in which each field articulates a particular methodology, set of questions and approach to knowledge acquisition. In this way we will recognize the different epistemic frameworks present in our intellectual communities at the IRW.

We are delighted this year to continue our collaboration with the Institute for Women and Art to highlight artistic engagements with and representations of "The Art & Science of Happiness."Patricia Dahlman's subject matter ranges across the political, social, and economic dimensions of emotion, while addressing issues of nature and society. She uses sewn and stitched forms made from canvas and colorful fabric to create both sculptural and 2-dimensional works that are playful or serious, and sometimes both. The works selected for this exhibition include landscapes, abstract forms, narratives and figural works that comment on the environmental destruction in her community as well as recent political events in America. They represent her visions and hopes for an improved future for society and the world.

On behalf of the IRW, we would like to thank Ferris Olin and Judy Brodsky for their collaboration, and look forward to working with the IWA in the years to come.

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel and Sarah Tobias Institute for Research on Women

Artist Statement: Patricia Dahlman

In the last few years I have focused on making sculpture. I cut out forms in canvas then stuff and sew the forms together. These stuffed, sewn forms are either stitched using different colors of thread or covered with colors of fabric. The stitching or fabric covering is like drawing or painting and I like the color, light and surface the thread or fabric make on the stuffed canvas. The stitching on the forms is usually narrative and sometimes based on photographs from news magazines and off the internet of people, such as Barack Obama, and events, such as the 2008 presidential campaign. Other sewn forms are simplified and more minimal and contrast different colors and shapes. The work is figurative, influenced by abstract art, sometimes humorous and often political. The subject matter is taken from personal thoughts, experiences in my life and reactions to political events around the world. The art of making and communicating one's thoughts through art is one of the most pleasurable and satisfying experiences one can have. The finished artwork is a belief and hope to make things right towards a better and balanced world.



Seeing it Through, 2009 canvas, cloth, stuffing, wire, & thread 28 x 28 x 24 inches



Wedding Basket, 2008 cloth, canvas, thread, stuffing & wire 13.5 x 17 x 13 inches



Girl, 2009 canvas, cloth, wire, thread, & ribbon 22 x 18 x 16 inches



Basket 1, 2007 canvas, thread, cloth & wire 20 x 17 x 13 inches



Installation photograph



Spring 2, 2007 canvas & cloth 25 x 22 x 23 inches



Spring 1, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread, wire & yarn 42 x 46 x 22 inches





Joy 2, 2009 canvas, cloth, wire, thread & stuffing 82 x 22 x 18 inches



Park Landscape, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread, wire & yarn 60 x 60 x 30 inches



Detail



Landscape with Skull, 2008 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 10 x 10 x 6 inches



Green Landscape, 2010 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 18 x 19.5 x 20 inches



Cradle, 2009 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 11 x 15 x 9.5 inches



Small Landscape, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread & stuffing 16 x 25 x 6 inches



No Health Care for Illegal Immigrants, 2009 canvas, wire & thread 14 x 16 x 9 inches



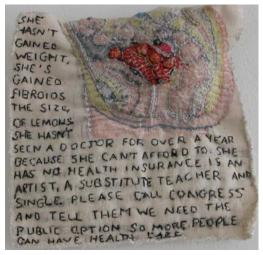
Weapons of War, 2005 canvas, thread, stuffing, & wire 20 x 27.5 x 13 inches



Hanging up Support for a Public Option, 2010 canvas, thread, wire, stuffing, cloth & yarn 51 x 36 x 31 inches



Detail



She Has No Health Insurance, 2009 thread on canvas 7.5 x 7.5 inches



The Obama Family, 2008 thread on canvas 7 x 7 inches



Barack Don't Let the Left Down, 2008 thread on canvas 12 x 15 inches



Slated To Be Cut, 2008 thread on canvas with needles 20.5 x 10.5 inches





Iraq-Afghanistan-Iraq, 2009 canvas, thread & stuffing 5 x 5 x 4 inches



Freedom 1, 2010 canvas, thread & stuffing 7 x 7 inches



Lyndhurst Landscape, 2009 thread on canvas 10 x 9 inches

Why?, 2005 canvas, thread, & stuffing 37 x 29 x 18 inches; 6 panels





Detail

Checklist of Works:

Barack Don't Let the Left Down, 2008 thread on canvas 12 x 15 inches

Basket 1, 2007 canvas, thread, cloth & wire 20 x 17 x 13 inches

Cradle, 2009 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 11 x 15 x 9.5 inches

Freedom 1, 2010 canvas, thread & stuffing 7 x 7 inches

Girl, 2009 canvas, cloth, wire, thread, & ribbon 22 x 18 x 16 inches

Green Landscape, 2010 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 18 x 19.5 x 20 inches

Hanging up Support for a Public Option, 2010 canvas, thread, wire, stuffing, cloth & yarn 51 x 36 x 31 inches

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Landscape with Skull, 2008 canvas, cloth, wire & thread 10 x 10 x 6 inches

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Park Landscape, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread, wire & yarn 60 x 60 x 30 inches

Seeing it Through, 2009 canvas, cloth, stuffing, wire, & thread 28 x 28 x 24 inches

She Has No Health Insurance, 2009 thread on canvas 7.5 x 7.5 inches

Slated To Be Cut, 2008 thread on canvas with needles 20.5 x 10.5 inches *Small Landscape*, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread & stuffing 16 x 25 x 6 inches

Spring 1, 2007 canvas, cloth, thread, wire & yarn 42 x 46 x 22 inches

Spring 2, 2007 canvas & cloth 25 x 22 x 23 inches

The Obama Family, 2008 thread on canvas 7 x 7 inches

Weapons of War, 2005 canvas, thread, stuffing, & wire 20 x 27.5 x 13 inches

Wedding Basket, 2008 cloth, canvas, thread, stuffing & wire 13.5 x 17 x 13 inches

Why?, 2005 canvas, thread, & stuffing 37 x 29 x 18 inches; 6 panels

Patricia Dahlman

Born Cincinnati, Ohio

EDUCATION

- 1975 Wright State University, Dayton, OH B.F.A.
- 1974 Yale University Summer School of Music and Art, Norfolk, CT

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2007 Wright State University School of Art, Jason W. McCoy Memorial Fund, Alumni Exhibition Award
- 2006 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Briar, VA, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Fellowship
- 2005 Puffin Foundation, Grant Award for The War And Peace Print Project
- 2004 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Fellowship
- 2002 New Jersey Printmaking Fellowship, Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Studio Theater Gallery, Middlesex County College, Edison, NJ, "TOYS"
- 2010 The Dana Women Artist Series, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, "The Art and Science of Happiness: Patricia Dahlman"
- 2009 Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, "Exquisite Corpse"
- 2009 The Center for Book Arts, NY, NY, "Threads: Interweaving Textu[r]al Meaning"
- 2009 Arts Council of the Morris Area, Morristown, NJ, "New Jersey Green"
- 2009 Printmaking Council of New Jersey, Branchburg, NJ, "Past Present"
- 2009 South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA, "Stitch: The Art of Clothing, Textiles and Soft Sculptures"
- 2009 Wright State University Galleries, Dayton, OH, "Kiser Invitational"
- 2008 Levy Art & amp; Architecture and Department of Interior, San Francisco, CA, "Twenty Artists, Two Galleries, Four Blocks"
- 2008 516 ARTS, Albuquerque, NM, "Speak Out: Art, Design + Politics,"
- 2008 Susan Hensel Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, "All Things Electoral: Redux"
- 2008 Sragow Gallery, NY, NY, Collaborative print with Michael Dal Cerro and two projects from the *War and Peace Print Project* in conjunction with the exhibition "Strength In Numbers"
- 2007 New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Library, NYC, solo exhibition of two site specific installations, "SPRING" at "Art in the Windows"
- 2007 Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ, "In the Country of Last Refuge,"
- 2007 Rutgers University Libraries, John Cotton Dana Library, Newark, NJ, "Corporeal- Book as Body, Body as Book" selections from the Brodsky Center

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Helen Schwartz, "An Artist Creates Happiness--in Three Dimensions," U.S.1, Princeton, New Jersey, November. 17.
- 2010 Cliff Wang, "Multimedia exhibit illustrates happiness through art," *The Daily Targum*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, September 21. www.dailytargum.com/university/multimedia-exhibit-illustrates-happiness-through-art-1.2337477
- 2009 "Exquisite Corpse, Paul Robeson Galleries 30th Anniversary" Catalogue, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
- 2009 "Paper Politics: Socially Engaged Printmaking Today" Catalogue, PM Press, Oakland, CA
- 2009 "Threads: Interweaving Textu[r]al Meaning," Catalogue, New York, NY
- 2009 Ralph J. Bellantoni, "Time Warp" Prints consider how past colors present, Courier News, Central New Jersey, March 13.
- 2007 "In the Country of Last Refuge," Catalogue, Newark, NJ
- 2007 Pamela Dillon, "Artists Together Again," Dayton Daily News, Dayton, Ohio, July 1
- 2006 Robert Taylor, "Yarn Art Gets a Modern Makeover at Bedford," ContraCostaTimes.com, Sept. 28.
- 2005 "Circa Craft 2005" Catalogue, Jersey City, NJ
- 2005 "Paper Politics," Catalogue, Seattle, WA

PROJECTS, COLLABORATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, ONLINE EXHIBITIONS, AND COLLECTIONS

- 2010 http://littleyellowbirds.blogspot.com/2010/08/art-and-science-of-happiness.html
- 2010 http://stitchmomshop.blogspot.com/2010/08/embroidery-in-art-patricia-dahlman.html
- 2009 "Remarked Upon Book" Collaborative artist book project with Robin Ross as part of Robin Ross collaborates with 48 artists. Included in the Kentler International Drawing Space Collection www.kentlergallery.org
- 2009 "Art For Health Care Reform Online Exhibition," http://artforhealthcarereform.googlepages.com
- 2008 Collaborative woodcut print "Hope to Rebuild" made with Michael Dal Cerro as a benefit to the Barack Obama Campaign. Print shown and sold at Sragow Gallery and at Obama benefits at Pisticci Restaurant, artobama.org, Art101 Gallery and Artbreak Gallery.
- 2006 Online exhibition www.politicalartwork.blogspot.com, "Have You Had Enough?"

2004-present:

Organized "The War And Peace Print Project," artists' prints made by Patricia Dahlman, Michael Dal Cerro and Deborah Harris, sold to benefit *MoveOn*. Prints included in "Amendicons Project- Responses to the Israeli-Lebanon War" shown at Makor Gallery, NYC and at Haven Arts, Bronx, NY and included in "Violence Transformed 2008," Digital Display, Doric Hall, Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA. Digital prints from "The War And Peace Project" in the collection of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, Los Angeles, CA

WEBSITES:

<u>For full CV visit:</u> http://www.patriciadahlman.com/ www.columbuslibrary.org/cmlarts/artsbrowseresults.cfm?searchlist=D www.jerseyarts.com/ArtistGallery.aspx



Estelle Lebowitz, Untitled, 1992

This exhibiton is made possible in part by funds from the Estelle Lebowitz Memorial Fund. Estelle Lebowitz (1930-1996) was born and raised in New York. She attended the High School of Music and Art and Brooklyn College. Her work has been exhibited in Sommers Town Gallery, Sommers, NY; Coster's Gallery, Highland Park, NJ; The Gallery at Busch Campus Center, Piscataway, NJ; and the Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series, New Brunswick, NJ; Art Library at Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ. In her artists statement she wrote, "My work(s) may be described as women's feminine objects with overtones of nature. They are semi-abstract images that are mostly fantasies, influenced originally by Impressionism and brought into Modernism by my own style and technique. Light and color are very important in my work...and they each mean something."

Lebowitz Lectureship: 2010-2011: Joan Snyder 2009-2010: Cecilia Vicuña 2008-2009: Renee Cox 2007-2008: Berni Searle 2006-2007: May Stevens 2005-2006: Molly Snyder-Fink 2004-2005: Miriam Schapiro 2001-2002: Hung Liu 2000-2001: June Wayne, Siri Berg 1999-2000: Carolee Schneemann





TheFeministArtProject





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