

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
News Release



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***By A Thread* Puts a Contemporary Spin on a Centuries-old Medium**

Group show at the San Jose ICA features subtly subversive works made with thread



Nicola Vruwink, *Untitled 2* from *Asleep at the Wheel* series, 2007, thread on painted panel and pins, 28 x 28 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and den contemporary, Los Angeles

January 2010, SAN JOSE, CA – The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is pleased to present, *By A Thread*, an exhibition of artwork by emerging and mid-career artists who create unexpectedly nostalgic, and poetic works using thread as their primary medium.

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By A Thread at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
560 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 283-8155 www.sjica.org

By A Thread will be exhibited in the ICA's Main Gallery from February 6 through May 15, 2010. The show includes work from artists Jody Alexander, Susan Taber Avila, Diem Chau, Lauren DiCioccio, Robin Hill, Nina Katchadourian, Lisa Kokin, Beili Liu, Katie Lewis, Emil Lukas, Victoria May, Ali Naschke-Messing, Lisa Solomon, Hadi Tabatabai, Nicola Vruwink, and Allison Watkins. An opening reception will be held at the ICA on Friday, February 5 from 6pm to 8pm. A panel discussion with the artists will take place at the ICA on Thursday, February 11, from 7pm to 9pm.

"*By a Thread* is not an exhibition about precise or technically proficient sewing, embroidery or any other form of needlework," says Cathy Kimball, ICA Executive Director. "Rather, it is an exhibition featuring contemporary art that uses thread as a medium to communicate the ideas, visions, and conceptual explorations of the participating artists. In many cases, the artists included in the exhibition have found that the ubiquitous and centuries-old process of stitching can be used in innovative ways to create something new," explains Kimball. Thus, the exhibition will feature the work of artists who give fresh consideration to the value and function of traditional handiwork. The show will include small two-dimensional pieces and large-scale installations, as well as a wide variety of sculptural works.



Also opening on February 6th in the ICA's Cardinale Project Room and running through April 3, 2010 – *Ted Fullwood: Energy Machines* – a solo exhibition of fiber works created by San Jose-based artist Ted Fullwood who works in a variety of media including clay and mosaic. Fullwood's abstract woven sculptural forms made from chenille stems – also known as pipe cleaners, exhibit rich color palettes, subtle variations, and complex textures.

Ted Fullwood, *Yellow Retort*, 2006, pipecleaners and rags, 42 x 26 x 26 inches, Courtesy of the Artist

From February 6 through May 15, *Night Moves*, after-dark programming in the ICA's front windows presents Cat Mazza's *The Mill Series*. Mazza's work combines craft with digital media to explore the overlaps between textiles, technology and labor. Created with software that translates video pixels into stitch work, *The Mill Series* animates footage of factories that once flourished during the American industrial revolution.

By A Thread is supported in part by a generous grant from the Myra Reinhard Family Foundation. The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledges support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Adobe Systems Incorporated, and members of the ICA. The ICA is supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose and by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and exciting to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The ICA has long been committed to presenting exhibitions that include visually compelling and conceptually challenging contemporary art, as well as a variety of educational programs intended to help our audiences reflect upon these works. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries and the space is activated by opening receptions, South First Friday gallery walks, after-dark programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries. The ICA is a member-supported, non-profit organization. Admission to the gallery is free.

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