**Classical**

**Remembering Steinberg**

Michael Steinberg, who died at age 80 last summer, was a critic, musicologist, lecturer and author—a widely respected and well-liked explainer of classical music. And one with deep local roots. For years, he penned the program notes for the San Francisco Symphony, guiding listeners through the works at hand. In fact, he is still guiding them, as, even today, the symphony often includes Steinberg’s cogent essays in its programs.

His lectures at the Music@Menlo chamber music festival were much-anticipated annual events. Saturday at San Francisco’s Davies Symphony Hall, the symphony and Steinberg’s friends and colleagues will pay tribute to him and his three decades of service to the orchestra. Violinist Ji-Hae Lee, Steinberg’s widow and former San Francisco Symphony associate conductor, will host the free, preconcert program, starting at 5:30 p.m. She will be joined by friends William Bennett (the Symphony’s principal oboe), Robin Sutherland (its principal keyboard), pianist Garrick Ohlsson and others for a program including the chamber version of the Adagietto from Mahler’s Symphony No. 5.

After the tribute, at that night’s symphony concert, Michael Tilson Thomas conducts Charles Ives’ “A Concord Symphony” and Schubert’s Mass No. 2 with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. The program (also performed at 2 p.m. today and 8 p.m. Friday) starts at 8 p.m. Details are at www.sf symphony.org.

— Richard Scheinin, Mercury News

**Worthy causes**

**A little misbehavin’**

Looking for a little Mardi Gras celebration? Well, here’s a chance to let the good times roll — and benefit a local arts group. As of press time, there were still tickets available to Saturday night’s “Just Misbehavin’ Limelight Gala,” a snazzy fundraiser for the San Jose Rep being held at San Jose’s Club Auto Sport. The event includes music, strolling entertainment, good eats and, of course, libations to get you in the mood.

The master of ceremonies is KPIX weather guru Roberta Gonzales, and there will be an auction of such items as John Mayer tickets, wine tasting with Rep artistic director Rick Lombardo, trips to Mexico and Hawaii, and passes to the upcoming AT&T golf tournament at Pebble Beach. Tickets to the event — 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday — are $150, and there are also tables available at $900 and $1,500. To purchase tickets, contact Janet Herrington at 408-367-2074 or janeth@sjrep.com.

— Charlie McCullum, Mercury News

**Books**

**Assessing Silicon Valley**

Kepler’s Books in Menlo Park has a couple of author events this week that will be of particular interest to those who follow the inner workings of Silicon Valley. First, on Monday at 7:30 p.m., the Bay Area News Group’s author, Meg Whitman, will put aside her gubernatorial campaign (sort of) to promote her new book “The Power of Many: Values for Success in Business and in Life” (Crown, $27). Despite the title — which sounds kind of self-help-ish — the book does have some juicy tidbits about eBay and other tech giants. Then on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Wall Street Journal reporter Randall Smith will talk about his new book, “The Princes of Silicon Valley: Frank Quatromone and the Dot-Com Bubble” (St. Martin’s, $30). The book is about to become a cautionary tale of ambition gone wrong and certainly, Quatromone is a fascinating figure. Kepler’s is at 1010 El Camino Real; for more information, visit www. keplers.com.

— Charlie McCullum, Mercury News

**Visual arts**

**Hanging by a thread**

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art opens two new shows this weekend with a common theme: thread as a primary medium for art. In the main gallery, there’s “By A Thread,” which will run through May 15 and includes works by a wide range of artists. The emphasis in the exhibit is not on technically proficient sewing or embroidery but rather on using thread and such centuries-old processes as stitching to convey fresh, innovative concepts and ideas.

In conjunction with “Thread,” the ICA is also presenting “Ted Fullwood: Energy Machines” — a solo exhibition by San Jose-based artist Fullwood who uses fiber to create sculpture works. The Fullwood show will be up through April 30. There will be an opening reception (free to the public) Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of the monthly First Friday art walk. The ICA is regularly open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday–Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit www.sjica.org.

— Charlie McCullum, Mercury News
ANOMALOUS
BEING

Monday, February 08, 2010

Exhibit @ ICA: By a thread:

Friday February 5th was a day of art for the bay area, thanks to "First Friday’s" where Downtown San Jose opens their door for free artist receptions of their new exhibits. San Jose’s Institute of Contemporary Art’s anticipated new exhibit titled "By a thread" featured contemporary artists who used unconventional materials usually defined for art labeled as crafts; sewing materials, pipe cleaners, and the obvious ... thread.

In the beginning I had no expectations of what was going to be shown. As I arrived I was blown away from all the beauty that exuded from what was displayed. All the artists were brilliant in their concepts and methods creating new work unlike that I’ve seen. Artists that stood out to me were Diem Chao, Beili Lu, and Allison Watkins.

Diem Chao is a beautifully talented Vietnamese artist that created porcelain cups with a silk overlay which she threaded with black and red thread to symbolize connections. A silhouetted hand threaded over a cup is connected by a thin red strand of thread that is sewn into two figures on another cup.

Beili Lu’s "Bound #1" was one of the most talked about and praised pieces in the show. The piece was based on the Chinese philosophy of the "red thread of destiny". There was pins tacked into the wall into the form of a silhouette of a human figure. In a corner there was a human figure on the opposing wall, connecting the figures were single pieces of red thread strung from one pin from one silhouette to another pin on the other figure. The figures were strong in form and yet were "connected" by by such fragile threads of destiny.
Allison Watkins made one of the most enchanting pieces. It was a mesmerizing simplistic yet intricately woven piece of work. The piece was based off the histories of old linens from her grandmother. It looks as though she captured a fading memory from her closet. The most inspiring part of her work for me was that this most recent graduate had taught herself to do this at grad school.

It is a great exhibit for all artists of any media. The exhibit runs through May 15th, 2010.

Posted by J. at 8:42 PM 0 comments

Exhibit: Conceptual Landscapes: recent work by Castillo and Mariana Garibay

Macla: Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, is a wonderful contemporary museum that focuses on artists in the Chicano/ Latino movement. There current exhibit is called Conceptual Landscapes: recent work by Castillo and Mariana Garibay. Castillo’s piece was an installation of sugar bags with her image printed on them. There was no artist statement provided, so one had to ascertain the meaning. The had her own image printed on these brown burlap sugar sacks, then hung them from the ceiling in huge circular columns. She also had large 11x14 photographs with repeated images of herself wearing the the sacks as a dress. I had wondered is she was supposed to represented the sugar cane fields that perhaps her people had worked on?

The more moving piece to me was the beautiful landscapes of Mariana. She brightly painted on the walls, and had paper images that resembles map like stokes upon them. She used mixed media of papers paints and other materials to create abstract images of the idea of a landscape. As a viewer each wall evoked a sense of a place. A red hued palette gave an air of love hate and fire, while the green hued wall had an almost floral vegetative alluring essence. They were all naturally beautiful to look at and gave a great sense of environment.
By A Thread Puts a Contemporary Spin on a Centuries-old Medium


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 Bay Area artists who create unexpectedly nostalgic, and poetic works using thread as their primary medium.

"By A Thread" will be exhibited in the ICA's Main Gallery from February 8 through May 16, 2010. The show includes work from artists Jody Alexander, Susan Taber Avila, Diem Chau, Lauren DiCioccio, Robin Hill, Nina Katchadourian, Lisa Katin, Belle Liu, Katie Lewis, Emil Lukas, Victoria May, Ali Naschke-Messing, Lisa Solomon, Habi 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 Cardinal Project Room and running through April 3, 2010, "Ted Fulwood: Energy Machines" - a solo exhibition of fiber works created by San Jose-based artist Ted Fulwood who works in a variety of media including clay and mosaic.

Fulwood's abstract woven sculptural forms made from chenille stems - also known as pipe cleaners, exhibit rich color palettes, subtle variations, and
complex textures. From February 8 through May 15, "Night Moves", after-dark programming in the ICA's front windows presents Cat Maza's "The Mill Series". Maza'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.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art | "By A Thread" | Cathy Kimbell |
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By A Thread Puts a Contemporary Spin on a Centuries Old M

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So if you live in the area this definitely seems worth checking out! You can see some of the artwork from the show on the at the ICA By a Thread Flickr Page.

POSTED BY HAND EMBROIDERY NETWORK AT 9:45 PM
LABELS: BY A THREAD, CONTEMPORARY EMBROIDERY, EXHIBITION, ICA, LISA SOLOMON
REATIONS: like (1) funny (0) interesting (0) cool (0)

0 COMMENTS:

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Thanks for taking the time to leave a comment on the Hand Embroidery Network blog, we love reading them and really appreciate it!

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