

Salon No.9

Works 270 — 300
Jul 21 — Sept 15, 2012



Artists

Tanya Aguiñiga
Lisa Borgnes
Blake Collins
Alika Cooper
Stephanie Dotson
Nathan Hayden
Ana Kras
Ry Rocklen

“Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort. There must be the will to produce a superior thing.” — John Ruskin

Marine Art Salon and guest curator Yasmine Mohseni are delighted to present Salon No.9, Works 270 - 300 an exhibition of fine art and design inspired by a craft tradition. With the increasing speed at which contemporary art is produced and the proliferation of new technology, the artist's hand is quickly disappearing from the finished artwork. We invite viewers to consider a series of meditative works whereby the creative process and modes of construction are still visible. The eight artists in the show approach the notion of craft in vastly different ways, some within their creative process, some in their source material and others whose work engages in a hand-crafted aesthetic. Their work has been chosen to respond specifically to the environment of the salon and looks at their practice within the context of the home setting. Exhibiting artists are Tanya Aguiñiga, Lisa Borgnes, Blake Collins, Alika Cooper, Stephanie Dotson, Nathan Hayden, Ana Kraš and Ry Rocklen.

A site-specific installation by Tanya Aguiñiga made of cotton ropes and variegated pastel dyes will hang from the ceiling and drape across the first floor mezzanine above the front door of the salon. This woven sculpture will be knotted, knitted and also incorporate deconstruction of rope as part of the

process. Other furniture will be integrated into the home environment. The design elements offered by the designer and artist are a punch of energy through the use of bold colors and materials such as felt, clay and wood. Lisa Borgnes looks at reinterpreting the role of female embroidery work through the prism of a 21st century lens. While traditional samplers were a woven record of what it was like to be a woman in the 17th and 18th centuries, the detailed needle-and-thread portraits of people, places and talismans, reveal the truths about contemporary society's preoccupations. Blake Collins' meticulous collages are playful meditations on dreams and perception. Addressing the relationship between word and image, they reflect our experience and understanding of constantly shifting realities. Alika Cooper also looks to folk traditions in her Americana textile collages. Cooper draws from sexually charged photographs by George Brassai and Helmut Newton to create hand crafted works informed by the decisively non-sexual quilting traditions of the Midwest. Master printmaker Stephanie Dotson's new "Drug Rug" series investigates notions of repetition in craft by creating multiple individual pill-shaped prints to create a large psychedelic rug-shaped wall piece. Nathan Hayden' work is the result of a painstakingly detailed process whereby ink is injected into a large piece of industrial felt to form intricate patterns that are inspired by folk history but planted firmly within a contemporary dialog. Inspired by every day objects, artist and

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furniture designer Ana Kraš uses her hand-crafted lamps to highlight and respond to a low seating area in the salon. Ry Rocklen's sculptures resemble familiar objects. Once discarded, in a unique manipulation, he strips the objects of their old meaning and breathes poetic life back into them. The disabling of their functionality through infusing other handmade materials into them such as glass or tile, or plating them in metal or copper, creates not only a spiritual and physical, but social purpose as well.

Guest Curator: Yasmine Mohseni is an independent arts curator, writer and speaker based in Los Angeles, Paris and Santa Barbara. Yasmine has curated numerous art exhibitions, art events and educational programs for art fairs, commercial galleries and non-profit institutions. Notable collaborations include projects with Christie's, Vanity Fair, and artist Shepard Fairey. Yasmine's articles have been featured in international publications such as The Art Newspaper, Beautiful/Decay, BlackBook, Modern Painters, Newsweek, and Whitewall. She is the US correspondent for the Dubai-based arts magazine Canvas and authors the Huffington Post column "Beyond the White Cube".

Tanya Aguiñiga (b.1978) is a Los Angeles-based furniture designer/maker raised in Tijuana, Mexico who holds an MFA in Furniture Design from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her hand-made pieces allow her to translate emotions into objects and tell stories through color and touch. Working with common materials in unconventional ways, her thoughtful work encourages her audience to reconsider the aesthetic and function of everyday objects. Her work has been widely exhibited from Mexico City to Milan and she was recently named a United States Artists Target Fellow in the field of Crafts and Traditional Arts. For over ten years, Aguiñiga has dedicated much of her time to using art as a vehicle for community empowerment through her work at Border Art Workshop BAW/TAF, a bi-national artist collaborative.

Lisa Borgnes the LA-based artist seeks to reinvigorate and re-contextualize the traditional craft of embroidery through the prism of a 21st century narrative. She adopts a technique typically associated with female powerlessness to explore contemporary preoccupations such as fashion trends, plastic surgery and the current state of the world economy. Borgnes stitches on burlap, revealing a raw and

refined aesthetic that underscores a craft aesthetic.

Blake Collins (b. 1983) received a BFA in Art from University of California, Los Angeles in 2006. In addition to working in his preferred medium, collage, Collins has been making art since early childhood, starting with drawing, oil painting, and watercolor. A precocious artist, he delved into black and white photography at 14, and into video and installation art at 18. Collins' work is largely concerned with dreams and perception. In his work, he addresses the relationship between words, meanings and images, and their significance in expressing experiences and understandings of shifting realities. When not working on collages, Collins writes sonnets, short stories, and songs; he is also a musician, music producer, and English teacher.

Alika Cooper (b. 1979) was born in Guam and lives and works in Los Angeles. She received her MFA in 2006 at the California College of Arts, San Francisco. She has had solo projects at Kim Light Gallery, Hamish Morrison Gallerie, Berlin and Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco. Cooper was accepted into the Viewing program at the Drawing Center, NYC, in 2011. Upcoming projects include a solo exhibition at Night Gallery in October 2012 and a group exhibition at ACME in July 2012. Alika works two-dimensionally with fabric, a medium that references body coverings such as garments and quilts. She creates a deep and abstract visual image of the human, conflicted or relieved by a sexual context.

Stephanie Dotson (b.1978) works in a range of media and techniques including layered resin paintings, silkscreen prints and three-dimensional wall-based installations. Subverting the storyline, she develops abstracted, opposing visual realities that parallel narratives in her own life. Dotson received an MFA in printmaking from the University of Georgia in 2005. In 2012, she had a two-person exhibition at the Christina Ray gallery in New York and has had solo exhibitions at Three Walls Gallery in Chicago, Vox Populii in Philadelphia and Trace Gallery in Athens, GA. In 2004, she completed an artist residency at the Bemis Center (Omaha, NE) and she received full Joan Mitchell fellowships to residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in 2007 and the Atlantic Center for the Arts (Florida) in 2010. Dotson is Chair of the Art Department at the Santa Barbara City College in Santa Barbara, CA, where she lives and works.

Nathan Hayden (b. 1977) received his BFA from

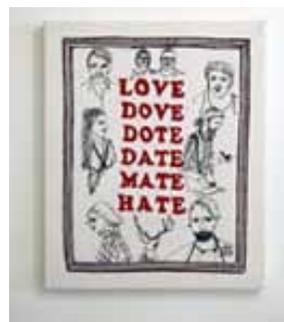
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Miami University (OH) and an MFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Spending the first eight years of his life living with his family in log cabin built by his father in rural West Virginia, Hayden began his early exploration of drawing and woodcarving and developed an interest in the naturally occurring forms and patterns he encountered while playing in the woods. Influenced by these childhood experiences, he employs multiple mediums including painting on industrial felt, installations incorporating spun wool, drawing, and dancing. Hayden has exhibited nationally, including exhibitions at the Acuna-Hansen Gallery, Sam Lee Gallery and Domestic Setting, and site-specific installations at the Loom, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Atkinson Gallery, Manhattan Beach Art Center and Hite Art Institute. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

Ana Kraš (b. 1984) was born in Belgrade, Serbia the LA-based artist has developed a design-based practice creating furniture and objects. Her hand-crafted work is imbued with a 1970s romantic aesthetic as revealed in her lamp series

such as Bonbons, Hive Lamp and M Lamp. In her Bonbons series, multi-colored strips of wool yarn are draped over a metal structure to create delicious candy-like lamps that dangle delicately from the ceiling. Her work is at once artisanal and based in a simple pared-down style inspired by graphic design. Kraš is also a video artist and fine artist.

Ry Rocklen (b. 1978) The LA-based artist creates sculptures that respect and rebel against art historical traditions. By using found objects to create ready-made work, Rocklen references Marcel Duchamp, infusing old cast off materials with a new dynamic existence. His carefully crafted objects exist at the cusp of the delicate, the irreverent and the anarchic. Rocklen holds degrees from California Institute of the Arts, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Southern California. He has had solo shows at Untitled, New York, Visual Arts Center at University of Texas at Austin, Art Basel Miami Beach and Marc Jancou Contemporary, New York. His work is featured in Made in L.A. 2012, the Hammer Museum's first large-scale biennial survey of the work of Los Angeles-based artists.

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