



contemporary craft

www.contemporarycraft.org

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Very Long Engagement at SCC's Downtown Satellite Gallery
BNY Mellon Center Exhibition Strings Together Material and Meaning

PITTSBURGH, PA – October 5, 2015 – Human beings' relationship with string spans millennia and it is thought that simple strands of fiber were the beginning of our species' understanding of space and abstract thought. Our ancient relationship with string and its manipulation into essential everyday objects is at the core of how we engage with the world. The Society for Contemporary Craft's (SCC) latest satellite gallery exhibition, *A Very Long Engagement*, showcases the fiberart of six artists exploring these themes. Curated by Frances Dorsey, Associate Professor in the Craft Division of NSCAD (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design) University, *A Very Long Engagement* is organized and circulated by the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The show is on view October 2, 2015 through January 8, 2016 at BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

Featuring the work of Jozef Bajus, Doug Guildford, Pat Hickman, Dorie Millerson, Sherri Smith, and Martha Stanley, the art collected in this exhibition emerges from lengthy encounters with string – whether knotted, netted, interlaced, woven, or percussed. Forming a network of linked ideas, processes, physical properties, and material qualities, local viewers will find familiar imagery in several of the works.

Working with the delicate fibers of needle lace and thread, Dorie Millerson's *Bridge* measures only an inch wide, yet the strong shadow it casts on a nearby wall illuminates the artist's understanding of material and attention to detail. In the shadow, the fragility and exquisiteness of the lace is easily disguised as a strong, steel structure.

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Known for working with natural hog casings for many decades, Pat Hickman's newly designed work, *To the Sea*, employs found "river teeth" (waterlogged wood that has been smoothed and shaped by a river's current to resemble fossilized teeth) and animal membranes to reference the convergence of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers. About her site specific installation, Hickman offers, "I have lived in several places where land and water meet— these places and what they have given me are now within; their accumulative impact shaping my imagination and how I see. Coming to Pittsburgh, I recognized immediately that I wanted to respond to the convergence of the rivers, feeling their power, knowing the path of their journey."

A Very Long Engagement is presented in conjunction with the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) taking place in Pittsburgh October 21 – 24, 2015. Additional support for the exhibition is provided by the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Society for Contemporary Craft

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, the Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, SCC offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists; filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community. SCC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The satellite gallery is located in the "T" station lobby of BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is open daily from 6:00 am through midnight. Exhibitions and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. For more information, visit www.contemporarycraft.org or call 412.261.7003.

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***Please contact Norah Guignon at marketingmanager@contemporarycraft.org
for high res images.***



ABOVE: Dorie Millerson
Bridge, 2006
Needle lace
2.75" x 15.5" x 1"



RIGHT: Doug Guildford
Rope, 2005 - Present
Crocheted poly twine and found objects
Approximately 60' (installation dimensions vary)

BELOW: Martha Stanley
Untitled, 2009
Hand dyed camel hair and wool
36" x 60"

