THE ART AND SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS:
PATRICIA DAHLMAN

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

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

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

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

**Hanging up Support for a Public Option**, 2010
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51 x 36 x 31 inches

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

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10 x 10 x 6 inches

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canvas, cloth, wire & thread
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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

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

**Weapons of War**, 2005
canvas, thread, stuffing, & wire
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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”
2009  Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, “Exquisite Corpse”
2009  The Center for Book Arts, NY, NY, “Threads: Interweaving Textual Meaning”
2009  Arts Council of the Morris Area, Morristown, NJ, “New Jersey Green”
2009  Printmaking Council of New Jersey, Branchburg, NJ, “Past Present”
2009  Wright State University Galleries, Dayton, OH, “Kiser Invitational”
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

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
2007  “In the Country of Last Refuge,” Catalogue, Newark, NJ
2005  “Circa Craft 2005” Catalogue, Jersey City, NJ

PROJECTS, COLLABORATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, ONLINE EXHIBITIONS, AND COLLECTIONS

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:
For full CV visit: http://www.patriciadahlman.com/
www.columbuslibrary.org/cmlarts/artsbrowerresults.cfm?searchlist=D
www.jerseyarts.com/ArtistGallery.aspx
This exhibition 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
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