

The Heckscher Museum of Art

CELEBRATING 100

1920 - 2020

The Heckscher Museum of Art
2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743
631.351.3250
www.Heckscher.org

Contact
Jill Rowen
Rowen@Heckscher.org
631.351.3006

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Amanda Valdez: Piecework

Exhibition Introduces Artist Amanda Valdez in First Long Island Show

On view March 21 to May 3, 2020

Contemporary artist Amanda Valdez launches her first show in a New York art museum with an exhibition featuring brilliantly colored, patterned, and textured abstract paintings. Valdez achieves her unique style by cutting, sewing, dyeing, painting, and embroidering canvas and other cloth.

Featuring more than 20 works, including several that are among the artist's largest and most recent, ***Amanda Valdez: Piecework*** explores the artist's engagement with abstraction and "women's work" with fiber. She conjures surprising compositions through thoughtful use of different materials and techniques.

"In *log punch* (2017), a rounded mass of "log cabin" quilt blocks seems to explode an embroidered gold form. This pointy shape, with its radiating lines, recalls the *splats!* and *pows!* familiar from cartoons and Pop Art," noted Karli Wurzelbacher, Curator, The Heckscher Museum of Art. Valdez's evocative forms, especially those that suggest the body, hint at visceral feelings and emotional states. Valdez believes that abstraction "allows for the creation of meaning to happen in the viewer."

(Image, Amanda Valdez. *log punch*, 2017. Embroidery, hand-dyed fabric, fabric, and canvas. Collection of Heather and Philip Brandes.)



In addition to the artwork, the exhibition features a “touch table” with canvas, silk, embroidery floss, and other materials used in the works on view. A dye notebook (Valdez often dyes her own fabric) and other tools on display, highlight various techniques used by Valdez in her artwork.

In honor of the Museum’s centennial, Valdez has written responses to a wide range of artworks in The Heckscher Museum’s Permanent Collection. Her texts explore themes that have inspired her own aesthetic. Valdez’s fascination with the moon and the emotions it evokes drew her to Permanent Collection artist Ralph Albert Blakelock’s *The Poetry of Moonlight*, c.1980, and Edward Steinchen’s *Moonlight: The Pond*, 1906. “It is remarkable to see the collection through the eyes of a contemporary artist, and to appreciate contemporary art in connection with more historic work,” said Wurzelbacher. Visitors can access Valdez’s comments on specific artworks digitally in the Museum and at Heckscher.org.

“It is fitting that the Amanda Valdez exhibition will be shown alongside the student juried exhibition *Long Island’s Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum*. The exhibiting students will benefit from seeing a leading young artist at the point of developing her work and advancing her career,” said Wurzelbacher. “In this centennial year for The Heckscher Museum, it is important to look back, while continuing to inspire future generations.”

Valdez was born in Seattle and lives in Brooklyn. She has worked in Guatemala and New Orleans and completed artist residencies at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Byrdcliffe, the MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo. In addition to a solo exhibition at Amherst College’s Mead Art Museum in 2016, she has shown her work in galleries in New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, and Tokyo. She is represented by Denny Dimin Gallery in New York City. She received an MFA from Hunter College in New York City and a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Also on View

Long Island’s Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum

March 21 to May 3, 2020

Long Island’s Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum is the most prestigious juried exhibition for high school students on Long Island. Now in its 24th year, ***Long Island’s Best*** receives close to 400 submissions, with jurors choosing 100 works. It is the only exhibition of its kind on Long Island that provides students the unparalleled opportunity to show their artwork in a prominent museum, and be featured in a full-color catalog that accompanies the exhibition. Museum visitors are treated to exceptional artwork by talented young artists.

About the Heckscher Museum of Art

The Heckscher Museum of Art celebrates 100 years in 2020. Founded by philanthropists Anna and August Heckscher in 1920, the Museum’s Permanent Collection comprises more than 2,300 works from the 16th to the 21st century, including European and American painting, sculpture, works on paper, and photography. Located in scenic Heckscher Park in Huntington, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To celebrate the anniversary, the Museum plans an expansive Centennial exhibition, *The Heckscher Museum Celebrates 100: Tracing History, Inspiring the Future* opening on May 16; a festive birthday celebration will take place on July 11-12, 2020. Visit Heckscher.org for more information.

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm *

Saturday – Sunday | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm *

Monday & Tuesday | Closed

*Huntington Township Residents admitted FREE Wednesdays after 2:00 pm and Saturdays before 1:00pm. Proof of residency required. **Free Admission for Active Military Personnel, Veterans, and Family**



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