

FLORA KAO

LINES OF DESIRE

Introducing Zelda Zinn in the Art-merge Closet Galleries

SEPTEMBER 10 - 27, 2012 | ART-MERGE LAB @ PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER

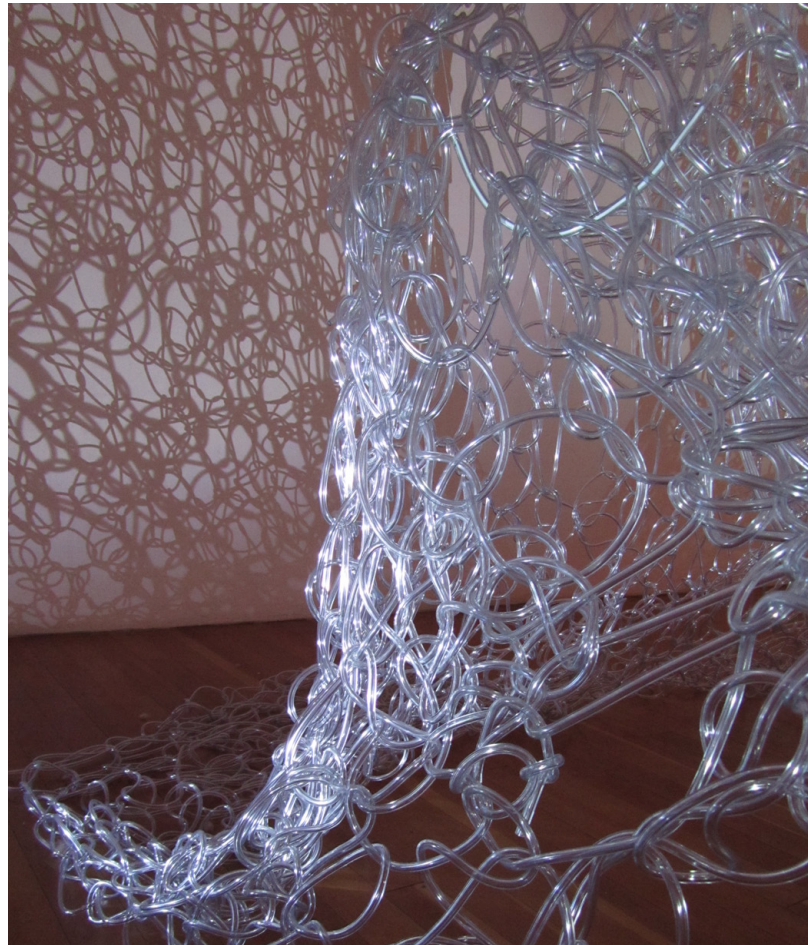
ARTISTS' RECEPTION: SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 | 5:00PM - 9:00PM

Art-merge is pleased to welcome a new exhibition to its gallery space at the Pacific Design Center: *Lines of Desire*, a solo exhibition of installations and works on paper by Los Angeles based artist **Flora Kao**. Composed of repeated actions such as sewing, crochet and the obsessive layering of source material, the work in *Lines of Desire* hovers at the edge of restraint and collapse, appearing to come together and fall apart simultaneously. The artist utilizes the overlapping of time, place and personal memory to create beautiful and emotive work that explores the uniquely human impulse to apply order to chaos and to control that which ultimately cannot be controlled.

Central to the exhibition is *Net*, a diaphanous undulating form crocheted from one mile of vinyl tubing and spanning 200 square feet. Drawn in part from the artist's painful recollection of the passing of her grandfather, the installation stands as part memorial and part meditation. In both the piece itself and in the colliding shadows it casts on the walls of the gallery, *Net* translates the trauma of witnessing incommensurable suffering into a visceral moment of stark and haunting beauty.

In a second installation piece titled *Blanket*, Kao engages in the futile action of sewing a moss blanket in a desperate attempt to preserve the transient beauty of nature. Tenuously suspended and preserved, fallen moss calls attention to the inescapable forces of natural phenomena like decay and gravity.

In addition to the installations, Kao exhibits a series of works on paper that examine the lines made by the movement of bodies in space. By obsessively overlaying the Los Angeles street grid upon itself, Kao creates imagined topographies of landscape and textile. Employing a process that oscillates between accident and control,



the handmade and the mechanical, Kao plays with perception and visual slippage.

Flipping between night sky and cityscape, *City of Angels* is comprised of hundreds of overlays of the LA street-grid on tarpaper. An essential building material of suburban roofs and asphalt, tar points to Southern California's insatiable need for petroleum. Likewise, *9 Trace* utilizes the layering process to underscore the varied experiences of the city, from crisp repeated overlay to blurred and fading impressions. Hand embossed on cotton rag paper, *Knit/Unraveling* captures the physical trace of a net as it unravels over time.

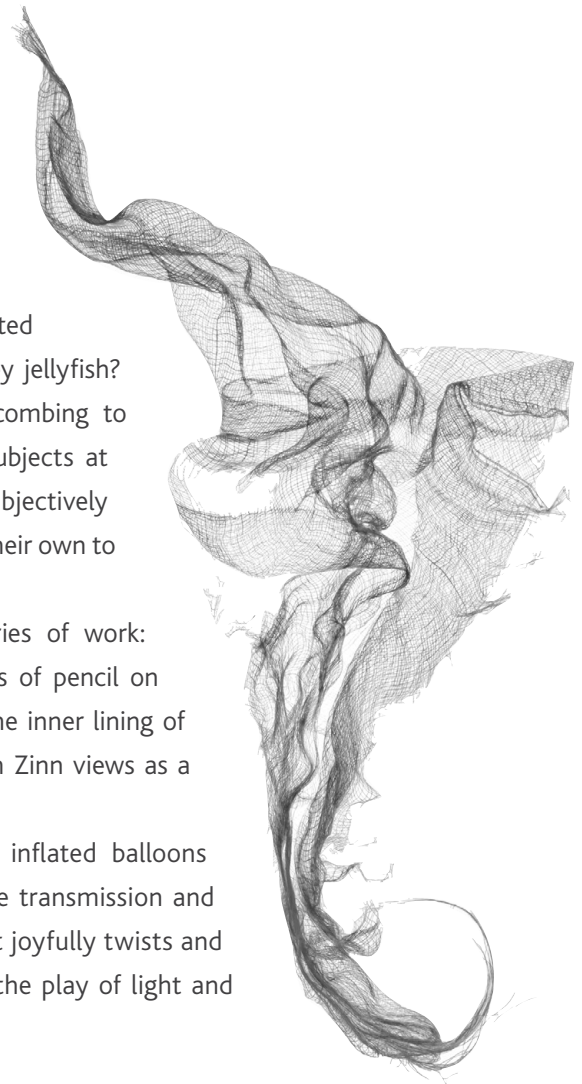
IN THE CLOSET GALLERIES

ZELDA ZINN

Showing in **Art-merge's** Closet Galleries is artist **Zelda Zinn**. In the first Closet Gallery is *Natural Selection*, a series of black and white photographs inspired by the artist's attempt to imitate the transience of clouds. The results of this exercise are a collection of serene, twisted membrane shapes shot starkly against a white background. Are they jellyfish? Paint or ink suspended in solution? Single cells or coacervates combing to create ever more complex structures? In each, Zinn catches her subjects at a moment of movement or mutation. Precisely shot and yet subjectively obfuscated, Zinn's photographs impel the viewer to create stories of their own to fill in the blank spaces.

In the second Closet Gallery, Zinn exhibits two discrete series of work: *Irresistable Air* and *Illuminated Letters*. *Illuminated Letters* is a series of pencil on duralene drawings, inspired by the distinctive markings placed on the inner lining of security envelopes to obscure the contents within—markings which Zinn views as a form of "domestic camouflage"

In *Irresistable Air*, Zinn playfully transforms air pillows (the inflated balloons that will often accompany mail order goods) into a treatise on the transmission and reflection of light and the recitation of surface and shape. The artist joyfully twists and fashions these volumes into screens by which our own visions or the play of light and physics are able to unfold.



WHAT

Lines of Desire

A solo exhibition featuring Flora Kao

Works on paper by Zelda Zinn

In the Closet Galleries

WHO

Presented by Art-merge

Jae Yang, director

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WHEN

OPENING RECEPTION

September 19, 2012 | 5:00pm - 9:00pm

ON VIEW

September 10 - 27, 2012

WHERE

Art-merge | LAB

Pacific Design Center

8687 Melrose Avenue

Suite B256 (Blue building/2nd Floor)

West Hollywood, CA 90069

Courtesy Design Loves Art at the Pacific Design Center
West Hollywood, CA