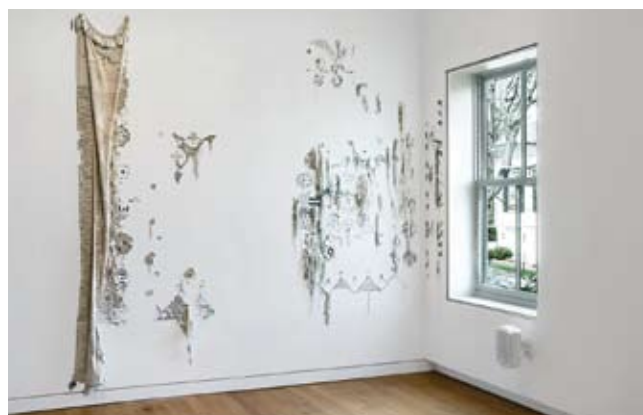


ART

THE SOUND OF ART

ALDRICH MUSEUM W(E)AVES A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHOW



Contributed photos

By Abby Luby

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Multimedia art is a tricky thing. Visual and aural components have to balance out — not an easy thing when combining a static visual with the fluidity of sound. If it doesn't work, it's alienating, but when it does work, you can ride the aesthetic wave, absorb, make connections.

"W(E)AVE," by Elana Herzog, the visual artist, and Michael Schumacher, the sound artist, is now at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, and is a collaborative piece that works.

REVIEW

Herzog's fabric creations are site specific for the gallery walls. Working from recycled chenille bedspreads, Herzog maintains basic structural lines just enough to depart to crumpled, yanked out threads, staccatoed with clumps of metal staples. The tension here is between clinging to the form and expelling it. The cream-colored work is much like half-melted, lacey, three-tiered wedding cakes. Some threads are loose, others tight; formality gives way to a fading elegance with the deconstruction process leaving residual material draping onto the floor.

"W(E)AVE" is as much about process as it is about the final work, although by the time we see it, it all comes together quite cohesively. Schumacher recorded the sounds of Herzog working on the woven pieces in her studio. Stapling, ripping, tearing the fabric off the wall, sweeping, drilling, even Herzog's barking dog, were all synthesized and processed. The result is a mix of multi-layered real and processed sound ranging from light, tinkling watery drops to deep low sonorities, intermittently punctuated with flat, tinny percussive thumps. The aleatoric soundscape teases out the similar random ebbs and flows in Herzog's woven pieces. In museum literature, a copy of Schumacher's graphic score for "W(E)AVE," is an intertwining series of black lines

redolent of Herzog's patterns.

This piece is a good example of technology and art successfully melding to create work that, separately, would be linear with a different artistic syntax. Schumacher's 11 channels for the "surround sound" effect are an intricate score of unexpected roars and silences composed as a stream of aural consciousness. The complexity of the process registers subliminally, but outright, we get a solid marriage of elements.

Another sound/art piece at the Aldrich is "Tekrar," by David Abir. With "Tekrar," you are in the art, feeling the sound. The specially designed space is a simplified anatomical version of the human ear that tapers as you walk into it. In a slow, imperceptible, 25-minute cycle of changing light, white and orange recede in shadings at different points of the room, as if the light is effused with some electromagnetic energy. "Tekrar" is a Farsi word meaning repetition, as a mantra in mediation. Abir processes symphonic music — here the Fifth Symphony of Gustav Mahler — reduced to low, soft orchestral strings, stretched out to a continuous hum with sonorous shadings. According to museum notes, every part of the space was painted white, blending the walls, ceiling and floor. The timing, shading and shifting of white and orange light was composed by Abir. Walking up the small raked stage leads you to the central inset — brightly, but not blindingly, orange. The pairing of sculpture, sound and light becomes an enveloping space that makes you a part of the piece. Long sustaining instrumental tones suspend you in the moment, your physical peripheries infusing with the space, your beta particles settling down. Everyone should have a space like this at home.

"W(E)AVE" and "Tekrar" will be on view through Aug. 12 at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, 258 Main St., Ridgefield. Tuesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 438-4519 or www.aldrichart.org.



"W(E)AVE" features art by Elana Herzog and sound by Michael Schumacher.

MAKING THE ART SEEN

ADMISSION TO EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Museums & Nonprofit Venues

THE ALDRICH CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM Arturo Herrera: Castles, Dwarfs, and Happychaps Imagery from children's books and other popular culture sources create a hybrid of works that are familiar and foreign. Through Sept. 2. \$7, \$4 for seniors and college students; free for members, children 18 and younger, kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and all visitors on Tuesdays. Tuesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. 258 Main St., Ridgefield. 438-4519 or www.aldrichart.org.

THE BARNUM MUSEUM Grand Adventure: A Celebration of the American Spirit in Bridgeport One-hundred-year-old museum showcases the life and times of Barnum, General Tom Thumb, Lavinia Warren and Jenny Lind; an Egyptian mummy named Pa-Ib; and a 1,000-square-foot scale model of a five-ring circus. Permanent exhibit.

P.T. Barnum: Bethel to Broadway to Bridgeport Guides visitors through Barnum's life and career, from his hometown of Bethel, through his American Museum on Broadway and his later years living in Bridgeport. Permanent exhibit. \$5, \$4 for seniors and students, \$3 for children 4-17; free for children younger than 4 and members. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. 820 Main St., Bridgeport. 331-1104 or www.barnum-museum.org.

BRUCE MUSEUM Flora and Fauna Themes and symbols in the decorative arts of China. Through Sept. 9. **The Bruce Museum: A Century of Change** Highlights the museum's nearly 100-year history and joins in the celebration of the recent publication of the Greenwich Library Oral History Project's book. Through Aug. 19. **Fakes and Forgeries:**

The Art of Deception More than 50 examples of fakes of Western painting and sculpture from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Through Sept. 9. **Changes in Our Land** Permanent display of the region's environmental and historical development. Paintings by more than 20 artists, including William Merritt Chase, Joseph DeCamp, Daniel Garber, Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, Theodore Robinson, John Singer Sargent, Robert Spencer, John H. Twachtman and J. Alden Weir. \$7, \$6 for seniors and children 5-12; free to children younger than 5. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. 869-0376 or www.brucemuseum.org.

FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM Picturing Health: Norman Rockwell and the Art of Illustration Paintings by Rockwell, with the theme of health and well-being. Through Oct. 14. \$8, \$7 for seniors and students, \$4 for children 6-12, free for children younger than 6. In addition to the original 1817 Griswold House, where the artists of the Lyme art colony lived, the museum features a contemporary riverfront gallery, education center, historic gardens and a restored artist studio. \$8, \$7 for seniors and students, \$4 for children 6-12, free for children younger than 6. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 96 Lyme St., Old Lyme. 860-434-5542 or www.florencegriswoldmuseum.org.

HAMMOND MUSEUM AND JAPANESE STROLL GARDEN Incarnation Works by Korean artists. Through Sept. 8. **Straddling Cultures** Works by Reena Kashyap. Through Sept. 8. **Mythical Landscapes: Intuitions of an Order** Works by Martin Ries. Through Sept. 8. Wednesday-Saturday, noon-4 p.m. 28 Deveau Road, South Salem, N.Y. 914-669-5033 or

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OPENINGS

ADMISSION TO EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Openings

ARTSPACE 50,000 Beds An exhibit spanning three Connecticut venues that investigates the colorful and unique history of the worlds of the traveler and the laborer intersect. Friday through Sept. 15. Opening reception Friday, 6-8 p.m. Summer hours through August: Wednesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 2-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 50 Orange St., New Haven. 772-2709 or www.artspaceh.org.

THE BARNUM MUSEUM New Permanent Exhibit "Come One Come All" explores the colorful and unique history of the fabled Bridgeport organization, The Barnum Festival. **Oil Drum Art** New exhibit with environmental twist features 55-gallon oil drums. Thursday through Aug. 30. Competition Thursday, 5-8 p.m. Judges will select a winning entry from the exhibit. \$5, \$4 for seniors and students, \$3 for children 4-17; free for children younger than 4 and members. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. 820 Main St., Bridgeport. 331-1104 or www.barnum-museum.org.

BRUCE MUSEUM A Taste for Chocolate Details the natural and artistic history of chocolate. Saturday through Feb. 28. \$7, \$6 for seniors and children 5-12; free to children younger than 5. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 1 Museum Drive,

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