



SALT LAKE ART CENTER
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Salt Lake Art Center announces the opening of the exhibition *Material Culture: The Fine Art of Textile*

featuring the artwork of
Susan Tabor Avila, Lia Cook, Jean Hicks,
Wendy Huhn, Elaine Reichek, Judy Singer

June 24 - September 30, 2006

Main Gallery & Projects Gallery

Curated by Jay Heuman, Curator of Education, Salt Lake Art Center

Material culture can be considered to be the totality of artifacts in a culture, the vast universe of objects used by humankind to cope with the physical world, to facilitate social intercourse, to delight our fancy, and to create symbols of meaning.

Thomas Schlereth, *Material Culture Studies in America*
(American Association for State and Local History, 1982), p. 2.

The exhibition, ***Material Culture: The Fine Art of Textile***, opening June 24 at the Salt Lake Art Center, brings together six contemporary artists who use textile and associated techniques as their primary medium and method. They shift the utilitarian into a fine art space, charged not only with admiration for technical proficiency but with aesthetic, civil and social concerns. The stylistic range of these artists' work is extraordinary. Susan Tabor Avila (Emeryville, California) uses hand and machine-aided stitching in her work; Lia Cook (Berkley, California) is a weaver; Jean Hicks (Seattle, Washington), is a felt-maker, milliner, and installation artist; Wendy Huhn (Dexter, Oregon) is a quilter; Elaine Reichek (New York City) is an embroiderer; and Judy Singer (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) is a painter. Their artworks represent the fusion of fine art and craft between tradition and innovation, remembrance of things past and a compulsion toward newness.

**Join us for the Opening Reception for
Material Culture: The Fine Art of Textile
on Friday, June 23, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Artist Jean Hicks will present an Art Talk at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
The Opening Reception and Art Talk are FREE.**

for more information please call 328-4201 or visit www.slartcenter.org

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