



Tuesday, July 14, 2009

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cathy Breslaw: "Light Moves"  
West Valley Art Museum  
July 24 through September 20**

On July 24 a new exhibition opens at West Valley Art Museum in Surprise. The show will amaze some and confuse others. The materials out of which the art is made are not conventional. The plastic mesh, used to construct the "paintings" is manufactured by extrusion molding machines and made into garbage bags for Japan. This material is also made into bags for carrying vegetables and fruit for the grocery industry, as well as floral wrappings for flower distributors in South America. Certainly not the ordinary paint and canvas. Yet, the results are as compelling as any other expression in more common materials.

Part of Ms Breslaw's aim is the light. Light that travels through and around the weavings of this plastic mesh. When properly lighted, the color variations throughout the material can shimmer and radiate with a life all their own. These ordinary substances now transcend their original commercial purpose in favor of something new that takes on a nearly spiritual aspect. They are now re-invented and yes, recycled to express ideas instead to wrap vegetables.

Ms Breslaw explains her attraction to this medium: "In my search for materials, which began in Taiwan, I found the plastic mesh among several materials manufactured and shipped in enormous room-sized containers to countries all over the globe. The mesh possesses weave patterns and transparencies that, when layered and manipulated, relate directly to the effects achieved with the techniques of glazing using water based paint. The subtlety of the color is greatly enhanced by this layering process. This also deepens the dimensionality of the work, allowing viewers to become more actively engaged. Combined with the mesh are patterns of multi-colored plastic, thread, yam, painted twine, rope, string, beads, buttons and small dollops of paint stacked onto small colored foam pieces in geometric shapes. Color is central to the creation of the works and is activated from a personal, even spiritual sense as well as being culturally influenced by current craft and fashion. Light also plays an integral role, enhancing the atmospheric transparency and ephemerality of the mesh, causing the exhibition space to glow. The delicate look and pastel color range

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of the mesh gives the work an undeniably feminine quality. The work combines a poetic sensibility with a handcraft aesthetic, using cutting, sewing and reassembling techniques to bring out the latent beauty of manufactured materials. There is an intimate look at femininity- at the contradiction of the physical strength and durability of the mesh while simultaneously experiencing its delicate and somewhat fragile appearance. The pieces recall the work of Miriam Schapiro and the Pattern and Decoration movement of the Sixties and Seventies involving surface embellishments, bright colors, and craft traditions while maintaining a formal sophistication..."

Breslaw's exhibit will be celebrated in a multi-reception on September 11 along with upcoming exhibits including Arizona Plein Air Painters, Monica Garvey - Abstract Painting, Fritz Scholder - Larsen Gallery Loan and Ludvic: Paintings and Sculptures.



"Just Imagine"



"Sounds of Color"

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