

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
News Release

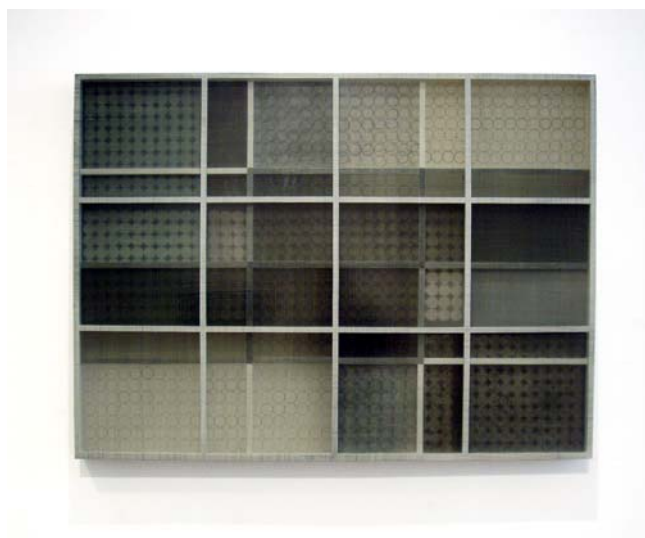


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Theodora Varnay Jones Exhibition Coming to the San Jose ICA
Solo Exhibition Marks First Bay Area Survey of Artist's Work



October 2009, SAN JOSE, CA — The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) presents *Manifold*, a solo exhibition by postminimalist sculptor and installation artist Theodora Varnay Jones. *Manifold* will be on view from November 7, 2009 through February 20, 2010. The installation in the ICA's Focus Gallery provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see the breadth, depth and evolution of Varnay Jones' work over the past fifteen years. Comprised of two- and three-dimensional works including drawings, constructed works and re-conceptualized ready-made pieces, the exhibition reflects the artist's systematic exploration of repetition, form and material. A public reception will be held on Friday, November 6th from 6pm to 8pm.

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Theodora Varnay Jones: Manifold at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art
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By using opposing media such as paper and rocks, fiberglass and beeswax, clay and gauze, Varnay Jones creates objects infused with a palpable tension between the conflicting nature of the materials and the equilibrium of their carefully balanced compositions. The resulting forms are open-ended and ambiguous, while also evoking concepts related to invisibility, emptiness, memory, perception, and time. The artist's careful layering of translucent and transparent materials traps light within her works, creating restlessness between

what is revealed and what is concealed within the multiple layers of each piece. The objects often reveal subtle hints at their hand-made quality despite the precision of their construction.

"Throughout our 29-year history, the ICA has maintained a reputation for discovering new talent as well as providing meaningful exposure for under-recognized mid-career artists," says ICA Executive Director, Cathy Kimball. "During the past 30 years, Theodora has created a diverse body of work that includes sculpture, drawings, prints, assemblages and installations. *Manifold* presents an exciting and unique opportunity to see and experience how this accomplished artist's work has evolved during the last decade," explains Kimball.

A *Talking Art* conversation with Varnay Jones will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 7pm to 9pm at the ICA. An accomplished printmaker, Varnay Jones has also been invited to participate in the ICA Print Center's 2010 *Artist in Residence* Program.

Hungarian-born Varnay Jones has lived in San Francisco for over thirty-five years. She received her BFA and MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. Her works have been exhibited extensively, nationally, and in Europe and Asia and she has received numerous awards and grants.

Also opening on November 7th at the ICA, [Afterlife](#) – a group exhibition of works that explores new meanings and new lives of discarded and re-used materials. The show will be on view in the ICA's Main Gallery and Cardinale Project Room through January 23, 2010. Guest curated by Kathryn Funk, *Afterlife* includes sculpture, video, and multi-media work from artists Claudia Borgna, Mark Fox-Morgan, Elisabeth Higgins O'Connor, Lisa Kokin, Charlotte Kruk, Robert Larson, Scott Oliver, Beverly Rayner, and Ann Weber. A public reception will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009 from 6pm to 8pm.

Night Moves, after-dark programming in the ICA's front windows presents *Fish out of Water*, a video piece by artist Claudia Borgna, on view from November 7, 2009 through January 23, 2010.



Image Captions:

Theodora Varnay Jones, *Transparency #32*, 2007, color etching, acrylic polymer, pigments, wood structure, 32 X 43 X 2.75 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and Don Soker Contemporary Art, SF

Theodora Varnay Jones, *Step a Side B*, 2006-2009, synthetic materials, pigments, rubber, wood structure 24 X 35 1/2 X 34 inches, Courtesy of the Artist and Don Soker Contemporary Art, SF

Ann Weber, *Topsy, Turvey, and Miss Priss*, 2009, found cardboard, staples, polyurethane, size variable, Courtesy of the Artist and Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael

Manifold is supported in part by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation. *Afterlife* is supported in part by a generous grant from Applied Materials. The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art gratefully acknowledges support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Adobe Systems Incorporated, and members of the ICA. The ICA is supported in part by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose and by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) is an energetic art space located in downtown San Jose dedicated to making contemporary art accessible and engaging to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Exhibitions are presented in three galleries that display the most current, relevant and often challenging art from the region, the nation and the world. The ICA is activated by opening receptions, South First Friday gallery walks, after-dark programming in the front windows, panel discussions, printmaking workshops, brown bag lunches and impromptu conversations in the galleries. The ICA is a member-supported, non-profit organization. Admission to the gallery is free.

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