

GALLERY 1: Megan Whitmarsh—*Shangri-La*

GALLERY 2: Jennifer Muskopf—*Points of Contact*

ON VIEW: May 19–July 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Branch Gallery is pleased to present two new solo exhibitions: *Shangri-La*— by Megan Whitmarsh, and *Points of Contact: How We Relate in an Unknown World*— by Jennifer Muskopf.

Megan Whitmarsh transforms the gallery with her miniature world of pop culture iconography. Dancing yetis, warring elves, and landscapes dotted with crystals and icebergs are embroidered in single threads on monochromatic backgrounds. Although the canvases range in scale from 6"×6" to 36"×60", the sewn elements of the work stay proportionally the same throughout—commanding the viewer to uncover the minute details of these fantastical stories.

Whitmarsh received her BFA in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute, and with the aid of a full fellowship, her MFA from the University of New Orleans. After a few years in Brooklyn, NY, she migrated to the west coast, settling in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, CA. Her work has been exhibited in galleries such as: HaNNa (Tokyo), Sixtyseven (NYC), Bucket Rider (Chicago), Kling & Bang (Iceland), Motel (Portland), and New Image Art (Los Angeles).

Jennifer Muskopf presents a new way to view “points of contact” within the animal kingdom. Using soft-sculptures, the artist allows us to investigate a moment frozen in time: a wildebeest giving birth, a lioness feasting on her kill, the mating of two whales. As a society, we generally learn about these behaviors through more conventional means such as zoos, books, and nature shows on television. But by reducing the scale, and with the careful choice of both fabric and thread, these images are no longer threatening, but rather a beautiful reality.

Muskopf also received her BFA in painting from the Kansas City Art Institute. She spent several years living and working in Brooklyn, NY, and relocated to North Carolina in 2005. In addition to several group shows at Branch, her work has been exhibited in galleries such as: Millicent Gallery (Los Angeles), Upton Lodge (Barbados), Architectural Artifacts (Philadelphia), and Triton Gallery (Japan). In addition to her painting and sculpture, Jennifer creates handmade stuffed-animals under the moniker “Clive and Sunshine”.

Gallery Hours: Wed–Sat 12–6 or by appt.

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