

NATHALIE MIEBACH: CHANGING WATERS

September 29, 2013 – January 5, 2014

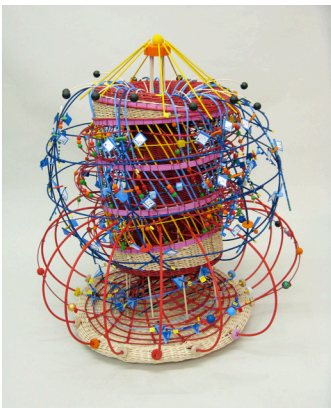
Opening reception: Saturday, September 28 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Press preview: Friday, September 27 | 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

TED GLOBAL FELLOW NATHALIE MIEBACH VISUALIZES WEATHER DATA INTO ARRESTING SCULPTURES AND MUSICAL SCORES AT THE CRAFT & FOLK ART MUSEUM



The Andrea Gail, reed, data, wood, 2012. Courtesy of the artist



Musical Buoy in Search Towards a New Shore, wood, data, reed, 2009. Courtesy of the artist

LOS ANGELES — The Craft & Folk Art Museum presents Nathalie Miebach: Changing Waters, the first solo exhibition in Los Angeles of TED Global Fellow Nathalie Miebach. For years, Miebach has been translating meteorological, ecological, and oceanographic data into woven sculptures and musical scores. Using the grid system of basket weaving as a base, her three-dimensional data visualizations are a revolutionary blend of the aesthetic and the informational. Changing Waters opens to the public on September 29, 2013 and runs through January 5, 2014.

The bar graph and pie chart were once celebrated as design breakthroughs; but now the overwhelming availability of data has inspired a search for fresh and enlightened ways to help people understand information. A new generation of artists is working on visual presentations of information that will depict data in forms previously unimaginable.

Central to Miebach's work is her desire to understand and visually convey the complex interactions between weather and living marine systems. She collects recent weather data, then looks back one year, sometimes ten, to assess patterns. Utilizing artistic processes and everyday materials such as construction toys, spinning tops, model rollercoasters, and wooden reeds, Miebach expands the traditional parameters through which science data has been visually translated.

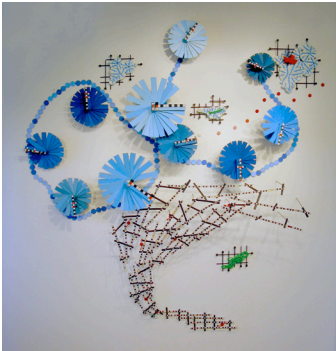
The resulting works—wall installations, sculptural floor pieces, and musical scores accompanied by sound—provoke the visual vocabulary and expectations of science and art.

Miebach's data has been collected from ocean buoys, weather stations, historical data sources, and folklore from the fishing communities in the Gulf of Maine. In the work "To Hear an Ocean in a Whisper," the Gulf of Maine has been mapped out as an amusement park, in which rollercoasters and Ferris wheels represent data such as the migration patterns of krill, or the motions of the Labrador Current.

Miebach explains, "My work is absolutely connected to climate change because it looks at weather in this day and age...The Gulf of Maine has been studied quite a bit in regards to climate change because these seemingly small changes in water temperature have led to other chemical changes in the water that are altering the marine ecosystem."

The sculpture "Andrea Gail" utilizes weather data related to the sinking of the fishing vessel Andrea Gail in 1991, which was the basis for the film *The Perfect Storm*. Miebach mapped the shipwreck data as a musical score, and then created a dimensional sculpture of the composition.

Miebach is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies, including a Pollock-Krasner Award, a TED Global Fellowship, the Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship, Blanche E. Colman Award, a LEF grant, two-year fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center, a Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Residency, and the Berwick Research Institute Residency. Her work has been shown in the United States and in Europe.



She's Coming On Strong, paper, wood, data, 2011. Courtesy of the artist

The opening reception for Nathalie Miebach: Changing Waters will take place on Saturday, September 28 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. An artist talk will take place in the gallery from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., followed by a reception. Both events are open to CAFAM members and the public.

Contact:

Sasha Ali, Exhibitions Manager
pr@cafam.org | 323-937-4230, x25

Public programs:

CAFAM will offer exhibition-related workshops and events in conjunction with the exhibition, including CraftLab family workshops on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is Los Angeles' only institution exclusively dedicated to exhibiting contemporary craft, design, and folk art. Located on the city's historic Museum Row, CAFAM's dynamic exhibitions feature established and emerging artists whose works create thoughtful and provocative visual exchanges between craft and contemporary art. CAFAM's regular programs and events provide opportunities for the public to participate in artmaking and engage with exhibiting and local artists. In addition to the exhibitions on view, the CAFAM Shop features fair-trade art and handicrafts from both local and global artists and artisans.

For group tour information, call 323-937-4230 x28.

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Admission: FREE on the first Wednesday of every month

Regularly: \$7 for adults; \$5 for students, seniors, and veterans; free for CAFAM members

Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; closed Mondays.

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