



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Brockton, Mass.) Fuller Craft Museum, New England's home for contemporary craft
Museum Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 5:00 – 9:00 pm

FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM PRESENTS

What Remains: Wooden Quilt Sculptures of Laura Petrovich-Cheney
October 22, 2016 - November 12, 2017

High Resolution images are found at:

<http://fullercraft.org/press/what-remains-wooden-quilt-sculptures-of-laura-petrovich-cheney/>

For New Jersey artist Laura Petrovich-Cheney, material has memory. The domestic objects and shelters that surround us offer comfort and identity and become carriers of our stories. It is this profound sense of embedded meaning that propels the artist's series of "scrap quilts." Inspired by traditional quilt construction, Petrovich-Cheney's vibrant sculptures are pieced together from Hurricane Sandy debris—wooden siding, porch railings, rocking chairs, dressers, drawers, etc. In the wake of the 2012 natural disaster, the artist searched devastated areas, salvaging raw material from dumpsters, refuse piles, and local waste stations. She even forged connections with impacted homeowners who were comforted to see their detritus given new life in her work.

Petrovich-Cheney, a former fashion designer and textile artist, incorporates traditional and contemporary quilt patterns in her forms, and much like fiber quilt-makers, she creates objects with portent and visual appeal using discarded scraps that once had different purposes. She mostly leaves the fragments as she finds them—some with nails, torn wood, chipped paint, children's stickers, personal markings, and even traces of sand. To Petrovich-Cheney, these marks remain an important part of the material's story.

Ultimately, her quilts represent a metaphor for enduring misfortune and moving on from it to make something meaningful from the wreckage. She explains, "We've all gone through really challenging times in our lives. No one person escapes this life without disappointments,

without loss. How we come back from that devastation is a marker of who we are. Great stories are about second chances and new beginnings and identifying yourself after tragedy. My work offers a story of hope after great loss.”

Artist Statement

On my walks I collect what is ignored, stepped on, or has washed up on the shore. I am drawn to what is in a state of transition, which has been exposed to forces of nature and time. For me, material has memory. The domestic objects that surround us offer comfort and identity and become carriers of our stories. In particular, I collect debris from Hurricane Sandy, dumpsters, and local waste stations. My work is inspired by traditional American quilts designs. As both formal, abstract art objects and expressions of feminism, quilts have traditionally been constructed of recycled and repurposed materials. Employing the language of shapes and color, the refuse is construction into a grid system of mathematical proportions and symmetry and is rooted in repetition to mimic life, growth, and regeneration.

Current Exhibitions at Fuller Craft

Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man

February 11 – June 4, 2017

John Bisbee: Material Obsession

December 17, 2016 – March 26, 2017

Playa Made: The Jewelry of Burning Man

February 11, 2016 – June 4, 2017

Uncommon Exposures: Photography in Craft Based Media

October 8, 2016 – January 22, 2017

Object Lessons: Selections from Fuller Craft Museum's Permanent Collection,

Ongoing

Cary Wolinsky: Fiber of Life

On view until June 25, 2017

What Remains: Wooden Quilt Sculptures of Laura Petrovich-Cheney

On view until November 12, 2017

Coming Soon to Fuller Craft

Living Traditions: The Handwork of Plymouth CRAFT

March 18 – June 25, 2017

Ellen Schiffman: The 52 Box Project

March 25 – July 31, 2017

Future Retrieval: Permanent Spectacle

April 15 – October 1, 2017

Circular Abstractions: Bull's-Eye Quilts

May 13 – October 22, 2017

Amber Cowan: Re/Collection

June 24 – October 8, 2017

About Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, New England's only museum of contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak St. in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, with free admission for all Thursdays from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and \$5 students, free for members and children 12 and under. For more information on Fuller Craft exhibitions and events please visit www.fullercraft.org or call 508.588.6000.

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