

Person Place Thing
Three New Exhibitions featuring
Lia Cook, David R. Harper and Stephen Schofield

April 9 – September 6, 2010

Join us for the opening reception: **Friday April 9, 7:00 – 8:30; remarks at 7:30 pm**

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The Wilson Foundation

TORONTO - *Person Place Thing* showcases the tactile, large-scale works of Lia Cook, David R. Harper and Stephen Schofield. The portraits in *Person Place Thing* reveal both intimacy and distance; and create connections between artist, viewer and artwork. Cook, Harper and Schofield use nimble combinations of craft and concept to detail relationships among people, places and things.

Person Place Thing is where textiles and sculpture meet. Cook, Harper and Schofield make work that is physically demanding and large in scale – wall-sized weavings of children's and doll's faces; sculptures of embroidered and taxidermied animals; and massive human figures made of textiles frozen in time. They draw the viewer into woven, embroidered and sewn narratives of nature, identity and history.



The series of portraits featured in *Faces and Mazes: Lia Cook* are grandly oversized weavings – most are about four feet across. Understood differently up-close and at a distance, they deftly play with the tensions between thread and image, abstraction and representation. Woven on a digital Jacquard hand loom, these haunting portraits of dolls and children shift in and out of focus and then dissolve into continuously changing maze-like patterns of light and dark.



Skin & Bone presents David Harper's embroidered and taxidermied animals. The artist's stitched replicas of found images of anonymous people read like tattoos and are by turns romantic, nostalgic and autobiographical. With their blended human/animal imagery, *Skin & Bones* is a decidedly cryptic mix of the hunter and the hunted, the owner and the owned. The portraits immortalize humans from another era, and at the same time venerate the animals that the artist is re-presenting.



Stumble: Stephen Schofield features one-and-a-half- life-sized sculptures that are intensely sensual. His patchwork figures are mapped from the male body and expertly tailored before being soaked in sugar water and inflated. The cloth becomes a taut skin that acts as a membrane showing the body and its interior. These sculptures are vulnerable human forms that hover between a highly spirited realm and a dream world filled with reverie.

Skin & Bone: David R. Harper and *Stumble: Stephen Schofield* are curated by Sarah Quinton, Curatorial Director at the Textile Museum of Canada. *Faces & Mazes: Lia Cook* is curated by Wendy Weiss and organized by the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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For additional information, interviews or visuals: Contact Beth Sharpe, Senior Manager, Communications at 416 599 5321 x2239 or bethsharpe@textilemuseum.ca

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Lia Cook is a professor of art at the California College of Arts in Oakland, where she has dedicated herself in as a teacher and colleague since 1976. She was named a Fellow of the American Craft Council in 1997 and has received numerous awards including a Gold Medal Award at the 5th International Fiber Art Biennale (Beijing, China) in 2008, as well as the Excellence Award at the 1989 International Textile Competition (Kyoto, Japan). She actively exhibits her work in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. Cook is represented by Browngrotta Arts (Wilton, Connecticut), Nancy Margolis Gallery (New York), and Perimeter Gallery (Chicago).

Toronto-born artist **David R. Harper** is currently working towards his MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His drawings, sculptures, embroideries and installations have been shown in solo exhibitions across Canada at Stride Gallery (Calgary), ODD Gallery (Dawson City), the Art Gallery of Acadia University (Nova Scotia), and MKG127 (Toronto); and in group exhibitions at: the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Art Gallery of Mississauga, Cambridge Galleries and the Cape Breton Centre for Crafts and Design. Combining embroidery, taxidermy and sculptural practice, Harper's sculptures speak to the intersections of personal and universal mythologies, gender relationships, and identity.

Stephen Schofield has presented drawings, sculptures and performances across Canada: at the Power Plant, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, le Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Montreal Biennial, the National Gallery of Canada, Dalhousie Art Gallery and the Musée nationale des Beaux-arts du Québec. He has shown in France at the CAC de Vassivière, L'Aquarium and the CREDAC; and in New York at the Sculpture Center, White Columns, John Weber Gallery and Horodner Romley Gallery. Schofield has also presented outdoor sculptures at the Toronto Sculpture Garden and on l'Île Ste-Hélène in Montréal. He received the Louis Comtois Prize in 2005. Using the body as a basis for production, Schofield investigates issues of corporeality and the human condition. The artist is represented by Joyce Yahouda Gallery (Montreal).

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Artist Talk: Faces, Mazes and Neural Networks with Lia Cook

Thursday April 8, 7:00 pm, Studio Theatre, Harbourfront Centre

Lia Cook is a California-based textile artist. See her large-scale, Jacquard-woven artworks in *Faces & Mazes*. This public program is presented in partnership with Harbourfront Centre's Innovators + Ideas Craft Series.

Free.

Interchange: David R. Harper and Stephen Schofield

Friday April 9, 6:00 pm

Join artists David R. Harper and Stephen Schofield with curator Sarah Quinton for a lively discussion about *Person Place Thing*.

Free with admission.

Seminar: Adam's Simple Ration with Stephen Schofield

Saturday May 1, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Spend a day with the artist that includes an illustrated lecture, a walkthrough of the exhibition, manipulation of different fabrics set with sugar syrups, and experimentation with eggs to produce temporary sculptures. Test the potential of food as an art-making material and consider the poetic transformations that take place when "Adam's simple ration" is put to use.

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Museum Hours
Open 7 days a week 11 am – 5 pm
Wednesdays 11 am – 8 pm

Members \$50, Non-members \$65, Full-time students \$40. Materials \$8.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221.

2-Day Workshop: Photo Image Silk Screen with Jeff Garcia

Saturday June 12 and Sunday June 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Learn a variety of techniques for printing photo images onto cloth and paper. Includes a visit to the exhibition Faces & Mazes and hands-on work in the studio. Co-presented with the Contemporary Textile Studio Co-op.

Members \$120, Non-members \$144, Full-time students \$80. Materials \$35.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221.

Seminar: Rogue Embroidery with David R. Harper

Saturday August 14, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Spend a day with the artist and explore embroidery as a creative and experimental method of expression where patterns, drawings, and images can be transferred and embroidered onto various unusual surfaces. Includes an illustrated lecture on historical, narrative, and rogue embroidery, and embroidery in relation to taxidermy.

Members \$50, Non-members \$65, Full-time students \$40. Materials \$8.

Advance registration is required, class size is limited. To register, call 416-599-5321 x 2221

Image credits:

Lia Cook, *Cindy Lay*, 2009, woven cotton and rayon, 94 x 132 cm.

David R. Harper, *Untitled (Male)*, 2009, polyurethane, cow hide, canvas, embroidery floss, ceramic epoxy, glass, enamel, 76.2 x 91.4 x 55.9 cm. Courtesy of the artist

Stephen Schofield, *Green Man*, 2008, silk, sugar, suspended from cord, 74 x 81 x 86 cm. Photo: Stephen Schofield