

CRAFT & FOLK ART MUSEUM

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Diary of a Mad Scientist and Obsessive Insect Collector, Art Gallery of Sudbury, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, 2010. Photo: Danni Trester



A Terrible Beauty, Chapter II: Compulsion & Repulsion, Dennon Museum, Traverse City, MI, 2006. Photo: Dietrich Floeter

JENNIFER ANGUS: ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

May 22 – September 11, 2011

Jennifer Angus creates a mesmerizing cabinet of wonder out of exotic insects

LOS ANGELES — Wisconsin-based installation artist and educator Jennifer Angus will transport visitors to a state of wonder in her upcoming exhibition *All Creatures Great and Small* at the Craft and Folk Art Museum. What appears to be gorgeous wallpaper is, in reality, approximately 3,500 brightly colored insects pinned directly to the wall in kaleidoscopic patterns.

“We don’t have very many ‘Wow!’ moments anymore in this age of Internet. We’ve become a bit jaded,” says Angus, “I am trying to capture in my work the magic we experience as children. I would like people to discover it once again and for a moment just stand there and say ‘Wow!’”

Inspired by the tribal dress of the Karen tribe in Thailand’s Golden Triangle—a region bordered by China, Laos and Myanmar—Angus combined her passion for pattern and textiles with a newfound fascination for the often overlooked (even maligned) insect. Using no endangered species, Angus creates her distinctive patterns without utilizing dyes or destroying natural resources.

Naturally electric blue, emerald green, pink, purple and red insects coalesce on the walls to create an immersive Victorian-era room that recalls an age of excitement, exploration and scientific discovery. Complementary small-scale dollhouses covered in beeswax are home to anthropomorphized insects that provoke viewers to revisit their own relationship with the eco-system.

For Angus, pattern is associated more with meaning than decoration. Her works call to mind themes of death, cultural association and ideas about collection. “Although insects are common all over the world, insect collectors share the same passion, rigor and attention to display as many art collectors,” says director Suzanne Isken, “You will find that Angus’ work reflects the world’s infinite cache of unexpected beauty and diversity, a view that we at the Craft and Folk Art Museum hope to share with Los Angeles.”

There will be an opening reception at CAFAM for *All Creatures Great and Small* on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



A Terrible Beauty, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto Canada, 2005. Photo: Stephen Funk

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Artist Talk with Jennifer Angus
May 22, 3:00 p.m.

Children's workshop on pattern-making with insects
June 11, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Jennifer Angus is an artist, educator, writer and curator living in Madison, Wisconsin. In September 2001, she joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin - Madison where she is an Associate Professor of Textile Design. Jennifer received her education at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (B.F.A. 1984) and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (M.F.A. 1991). She has exhibited her work internationally including Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan and Spain. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council and Wisconsin Arts Board grants. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison she has received annual grants from the Graduate School as well as a Vilas Associate Award, the Emily Mead Baldwin-Bascom Professorship in the Creative Arts and most recently a Romnes Fellowship. Three of her works are in the permanent collection of the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. She maintains a comprehensive web site of her work www.jenniferangus.com.

Situated on historic Museum Row since 1973, the Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is an invaluable contributor to Los Angeles culture, exhibiting current artists with intriguing perspectives and distinctive practices. Exploring the leading edge of craft, art, and design, CAFAM gives audience to diverse makers and artists whose work is often not represented in larger art institutions. The museum is a place to see art and make art — all under one roof. CAFAM coordinates a robust roster of hands-on workshops led by professional artists and makers. The intimate, atypical museum space and independent spirit at CAFAM combine to create an atmosphere of excitement and innovation, where people in Los Angeles deepen their relationships to art, creativity and one another. For more information, visit www.cafam.org

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

Admission: FREE every Sunday

Regularly: \$7 for adults; \$5 for students, teachers, 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. Every first Thursday of the month, extended hours 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.