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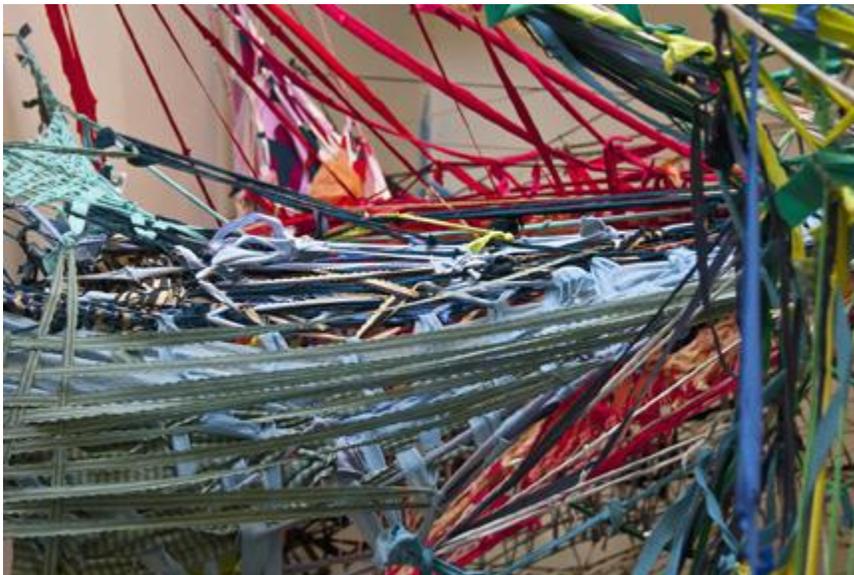
## Re-collections: Material, Space, Memory

Victoria Greising

May 13 - June 12

Opening Reception: May 13, 7-9 pm

Artist Talk: June 12, 5 pm



Poet, author and writer Steven Henry Madoff recently stated at a lecture addressing the meaning of space:

"...Great artists make new kinds of hinges for space and time – a new kind of flexibility".

My first encounter with Victoria Greising's work conjured up that exact thought as I contextualized her work within the age of mechanical reproduction, and more currently, in the age of digital repetition. The use of fabric in her work could be viewed as 'low tech', yet the way she creates a discourse around the significance of personal history and material within the surrounding space it occupies, is what Madoff would declare as "breaking the joint". Conversely to what post-Minimalist sculptor Eva Hesse investigated in her work as a pioneer in her use of unconventional material to convey the idea

of the anti-form, Tori is seduced by the form and how it exists in space using textiles not to transcend its 'objectness', but rather to imbue it with meaning.

Tori's webbed installations of manipulated fabric and cord proposes to the viewer an experience that is at once sculptural as well as environmental. These landscapes of collected and woven three dimensional lines elucidate a symbolic coming together of a specific grouping of family and friends, as well as a manifestation of an enigmatic logic of determined handiwork. While many theorized Eva Hesse's use of material to be evocative and evident of her emotional chaos, Tori's fabric is charged with confidence and strength. Collected and gathered by numerous friends and family members, each piece is laden with their individual personality and story that informs each decision to knot, weave, cut and pull. The result is an inertial form that beckons us to experience these memories inside and out.

Growing and connecting from wall to ceiling to the floor, the fabrics are stretched, twisted, and tied to create a meshwork of branch like forms, blood veins and muscular tendons that respond to the specific dimensions and particulars of the place. There is a disquieting feeling that you are inside a human body, trapped and claustrophobic. However, within these layers of webbing and weaving, negative spaces part like a mouth to a cave that lure us to cross these thresholds to an unknown place where the outcome becomes liberating and comforting.

Once inside, there may be a pillow beckoning the guest to spend more time, zone out or maybe even take a nap. The light and shadow on the wall further cultivate a hypnotic state of awareness and solitude. A feeling of security sets in akin to being in a fort or a cozy reading nook. Tori surrounds herself with her friends and family as she fills up her life with the fabric remnants of so many people. "Each piece was worn by someone, it maintains a history. It tells a story."

Tori challenges us to transmute this process of alchemy so we too can contemplate on what is most important – the people that populate our lives.

In a world where there is so much to filter, Tori's work allows us to be confronted with the present moment– to be launched into a kinetic yet momentary space that is lived, secure and malleable made permanent and tangible by a memory.

Isabel Manalo

April, 2011

The District of Columbia Arts Center, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit arts space dedicated to promoting the freshest, most under-recognized artists in the Washington metropolitan area. Located in the heart of Adams Morgan, DCAC is comprised of a 750 square foot gallery and a 50 seat black box theater. Over the years, DCAC has received local, national and international reviews of its over 100 visual arts exhibitions and 500 performance events. We encourage an ongoing dialogue between new artists and the greater arts community, assisting artists in both the business and craft of art. As DCAC continues to draw poets, painters, actors, storytellers, sculptors, and performance artists from around the corner to around the world; the Center remains a mainstay of the Washington, DC arts community

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Gallery hours: Wed.-Sun. 2 p.m.- 7 p.m.