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SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013

An Errant Line at the Spencer



A viewer stands in front of large textiles in the new show *An Errant Line*

The Spencer Museum of Art has launched *An Errant Line*, an impressive large scale textile installation by Ann Hamilton and Cynthia Schira. The show spans many galleries of the museum, and took eight years to plan. *An Errant Line* refers to threads of a textile that float freely on a loom making an unexpected decorative pattern. A happy mistake or opportunity, these lines are a result of threads pulled from a tight weft. These irregular lines are called "errant."

The show integrates parts of The Spencer Museum, both the art and the architecture, into the installation. To prepare for the exhibit, Hamilton and Schira looked at works located in the museum. Pieces were picked based on the artists' personal reaction to them. Often the art they were most attracted to was in storage or in KU's anthropology facility. The items were scanned, then reinvented into their work.

On opening night, Hamilton and Schira discussed their work process in an informal panel. They explained that engaging with the art from the museum allowed them to think about the nature of museums and the objects museums conserve. Before an art work comes to a museum, someone is composing the art in a state of consciousness. Once the art has been created, the viewer is able pick up on the consciousness when experiencing it. Hamilton compared the effect to the piano that sits in the central court of The Spencer; one can feel the history of performance even when the piano is silent.

Both Hamilton and Schira are highly regarded in the textile field. Schira is known for her use of a secondary weft in weaving, an innovation she found to be spontaneous. Hamilton is recognized for her large-scale installations. The artists met in the 1970's while Schira was a textile teacher at the University of Kansas and Hamilton was a student. The student/teacher relationship has grown to collaboration status between the two artists.

The exhibit will be on display through August 11.

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- [Karen Matheis](#)

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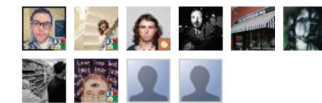
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Installation as seen from above



Display showing the work process of Schira

Posted by [Karen Matheis](#) at 4:33 AM

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