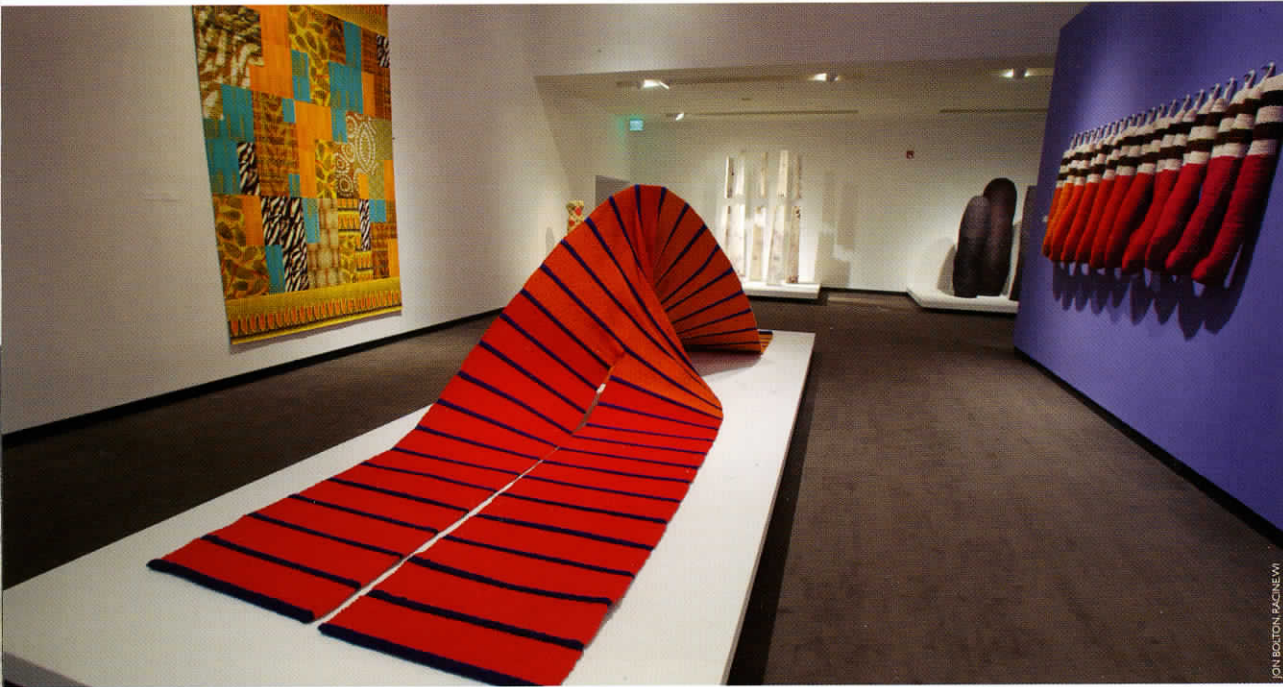


fiber happenings

LEFT: Installation image of **High Fiber: Recent Large-Scale Acquisitions in Fiber**. Other artists in this image include: Michael James (quilt on left wall), **Home Economics**; 2005; Barbara Lee Smith (white fiber sculptures), **Time and Memory**; 2001; Linda Kelly Osborne (black fiber sculptures), **Black Tower**; 1995; and **Form 4**, 1989; Jean Stamsta (front and center), **Rift**; 1977; Jean Stamsta (on the right wall), **Progression of 10**, 1974.

BELOW: Installation image of **High Fiber: Recent Large-Scale Acquisitions in Fiber** taken through Rebecca Medel's, **1000 Kannons**.

In the background, Merle Temkin, **Only Me**; ca. 2002–2009.

HIGH FIBER: Recent Large Scale Acquisitions in Fiber

THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2013, THE RACINE ART MUSEUM premieres an impressive array of fiber pieces never before seen in its galleries. *High Fiber: Recent Large Scale Acquisitions in Fiber* transforms RAM's largest gallery space with larger-than-life-size sculptures by significant contemporary artists who have established reputations working with materials such

as fabric, metal wire, and cedar. Created with techniques such as weaving and knotting, and touching on a variety of subjects—including metaphysics, the human condition, and the natural world—the works featured in this show delight the eye and engage the mind. It includes artists who have been working with textiles for decades, pushing the boundaries of the

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media and offering different ways of understanding the materials.

For example, Rebecca Medel uses the ancient technique of knotted netting, linen, ramie, and cotton to create grids that, through their shape and structure, reference celestial maps, starlight, and galaxies. With her massive *1000 Kannons* (comprised of 95 panels installed in a 32 by 27-foot space), Medel explores time and space metaphysics, as well as symbolism.

In the words of RAM curator, Lena Vigna, "*High Fiber* underscores the significance of textiles as contemporary art in form and content. With large-scale works from late twentieth century critical innovators in fibers, it allows us to showcase the potency and flexibility of fiber as a medium and the groundbreaking exploration of it that occurred a

few decades ago. We are proud that our collection is growing in a way that we can offer this 'snapshot' of important work, simultaneously contextualizing both past and present.

"In a popular social and cultural context, we are at a period in time that echoes earlier decades, at least in terms of interest in textiles and handcraft as hobby. These popular interests run parallel to artistic explorations with fiber in a more self-conscious context. Because of several significant acquisitions, we were at a point where we could present a dynamic and thought-provoking exhibition featuring important work and game-changing artists. This allowed the chance to both analyze the efforts of significant textile artists and reflect on what has set the stage for utilizing textiles and textile-related techniques today."

Find out more about this watershed exhibition at www.ramart.org.

