

## Calendar listing for exhibition

For Immediate Release: February 6, 2007

## Euphrat Museum of Art

De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 95014

<http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/>

408 864-8836

Art exhibition:

### **Material Culture**

March 7 – April 19, 2007

Closed Spring Break April 2-6, 2007

Reception: March 20, 5-7 pm with artist presentation

Museum Hours: M - Th, 10-4

Open to tour groups by appointment.

### **Artists shown:**

**Reneé Billingslea, Hector Dio Mendoza, Corinne Okada, Nazanin Shenasa,**

**Kerry Vander Meer**

**Artist community collaborators include Chike Nwoffiah, Oriki Theater**

*Material Culture* connects a focus on textiles, both traditional and contemporary practice, with a focus on our culture of materials/materialism. In anthropology and archaeology, material culture (physical objects as opposed to documents) enables researchers to better understand a culture. Playing off several different title interpretations, we highlight six artists with content relevant to the times and the community.

Contemporary textile art is wide ranging. Artist **Reneé Billingslea** uses clothing to create an impact in her installation *Fabric of Race: Lynching in America*. Stained shirts, hanging, with hand-embroidered nametags, represent cases she researched. A hand-sewn quilt includes appropriated images from "lynching postcards." Here clothing/textiles stand in for the person and draws one into an important but rarely discussed part of U.S. history and a horrific part of human interactions that continues. Billingslea teaches at Santa Clara University.

Artist **Corinne Okada** creates wearable art and other art objects from recycled candy wrappers from other cultures, providing cultural links for different generations. Her beautiful *Nutcracker Dress* is constructed from Russian,

decisions, conflicted as to whether to conform to family or community expectations, or to follow their heart to the true self. Shenasa is a textile artist, art historian and curator who teaches at De Anza College.

The exhibition was curated by Jan Rindfleisch working with Nazanin Shenasa, with assistance from Diana Argabrite.

The Euphrat Museum is in an interim space in the A quad while the design of the new Euphrat building is being finalized and construction proceeds.

The Euphrat Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts Council Silicon Valley, and by an Applied Materials Excellence in the Arts grant and an Adobe Systems Inc. grant, both in partnership with Arts Council Silicon Valley.

For events connected to the exhibition, call the number listed below.

**##### Call Jan Rindfleisch 408-864-8836 for more information.**