

parts. The 48 works on view at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art cover the later years, when Aycock developed an increasingly elaborate visual vocabulary, drawing upon a multitude of sources and facilitated in part by the use of computer programs. The works on view at the AD&A Museum focus on the beginning of her career, including detailed architectural drawings, sculptural maquettes and photo documentation for both realized and imagined architectural projects.

Concurrent with the Alice Aycock exhibition, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art is the exclusive West Coast venue for a major exhibition of work by American artist Michelle Stuart. A focused survey of the artist's drawings and related works, "Michelle Stuart: Drawn from Nature" highlights the artist's radical redefinition of the medium of drawing — a field of intense artistic and scholarly interest today. The exhibition comprises nearly 60 works spanning the period from the late 1960s to the present

Alice Aycock, "Rock, Paper, Scissors (India '07)," 2010, watercolor and ink on paper. Miami Art Museum, gift of Jerry Lindzon.



day. These works encompass a characteristically varied and unconventional range of media, underlining Stuart's major contribution to the practice of drawing.

Stuart, born and trained in California, has become celebrated for a rich and diverse body of work stemming from her lifelong interest in the natural world and the cosmos. Working in drawing, sculpture, photography, video, installation and site-specific earthworks, she has pursued a subtle and responsive dialogue with nature and science. With an emphasis on organic materials and repetitive actions, Stuart's oeuvre originates in particular in process-based sculpture of the late 1960s and the Land Art movement.

During the 1970s she became known for her monumental drawings in which rolls of paper were smashed with rocks, stroked with earth or rubbed with graphite until the characteristics of a given site became ingrained in its surface. These early frottage pieces capture the complexity of the site and act as indexical traces of the land. Often, works were made directly in nature. At SBMA, these wall scrolls are shown alongside *Niagara Gorge Path Relocated*, 1975, a video documenting a 460-foot-long drawing along the original site of the Niagara Falls.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is at 1130 State Street. For additional information, 805-963-4364, www.sbma.net, www.museum.ucsb.edu or 805-893-2951.

## Yale Center For British Art Reopens Study Room

NEW HAVEN, CONN. — The Yale Center for British Art recently reopened its Study Room. A unique and invaluable resource for researchers, the Study Room is also among the most beautiful spaces in the center's landmark building, designed by architect Louis I. Kahn.

Renewed as part of the first phase of the center's building conservation project, the Study Room is available to students, scholars and the general public for the viewing and study of materials from the collections of the prints and drawings and rare books and manuscripts departments. Visitors may examine, for example, George Stubbs' extraordinary anatomical drawings, marvel at virtuosic watercolors by J.M.W. Turner, follow the naval

expedition of Francis Drake, read the correspondence of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, or view print portfolios by cutting-edge contemporary British artists.

As before, appointments are not required. Study Room hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 4:30 pm.

The center will celebrate the reopening with two events: On Saturday, February 8, from 1 to 4 pm, the center welcomes the public to a Study Room Open House. Members of the community are invited to explore this beautifully restored space, view highlights from the prints and drawings and rare books and manuscripts collections, meet curators and staff and enjoy refreshments in the adjoining Library Court. Curators will

lead informal discussions about the selected works on display at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

On Wednesday, February 12, from 7 to 9 pm, the center will host college students at an after-hours event, Student Night Out. Students at Yale and other colleges in the area will learn about using the Study Room for research and study, view outstanding objects from the prints and drawings and rare books and manuscripts collections, and hear informal talks from curators and members of the Student Guide program, as well as enjoy refreshments.

The Yale Center for British Art is at 1080 Chapel Street. For information, 203-432-2800 or www.britisshart.yale.edu.

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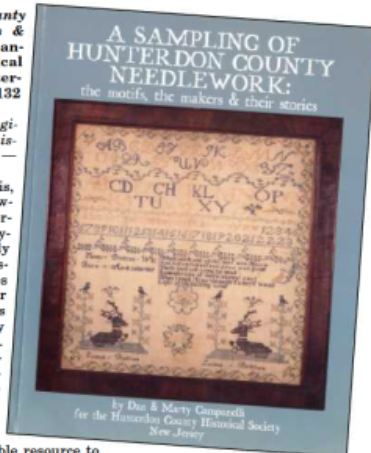
## BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS...

*A Sampling Of Hunterdon County Needlework: the motifs, the makers & their stories* by Dan and Marty Campanelli, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, N.J., www.hunterdonhistory.org, 2013, softcover, 132 pages, \$32.

"These New Jersey samplers are the tangible threads that tie together the social history of Hunterdon's rural communities" — Dan & Marty Campanelli

With this declaration, the Campanellis, longtime sampler collectors and now-scholars/authors, have created a wonderful resource for sampler collectors everywhere. The first book devoted exclusively to New Jersey samplers, this well-illustrated treasure not only shares stories about these early needleworks and their makers but also weaves connections among Hunterdon's settlers — be they poor tradesmen to affluent merchants. Seventy-four lovely examples of needlework by Hunterdon's young ladies, dating from 1798 through the 1840s, are surveyed here.

Thanks to a grant from the Edward Thatcher Astle Memorial Scholarship Foundation, the society has an invaluable resource to anyone who appreciates schoolgirl needlework. From discovering through exhaustive research of the Hunterdon "collared deer" school here and correctly attributing several key works previously identified as from Pennsylvania or the broader Delaware Valley regional, the authors have filled a huge gap in scholarship and for that collectors may rejoice. —AVV



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