



Sheila Held

Attempts at a Unified Theory

The Green Gallery East

1500 N Farwell Ave, Milwaukee, WI

January 20 - March 5, 2023

The Green Gallery is pleased to announce Sheila Held's latest iteration of *Attempts at a Unified Theory*. Held's tapestries negotiate themes of the humanities, magic, science, religion, and nature. We sense this both directly and indirectly in her offerings. Color and composition push into realms of the psychotropic while otherworldly encounters occur between figures, symbols and space. The woven objects are generous to the viewer, utilizing information that exists within our periphery. Held invites us to become entangled within the potentiality of her work.

Held started weaving during the early 1970s in Berkeley, CA. Her early ventures involved production of fabric for garments. Held transitioned into weaving tapestries during the mid-80s and has been focused on this approach since. For the past four decades she has innovated a technical approach to the floor loom resulting in a unique and visionary style.

These tapestries have always been reliant on found imagery. Held brought Photoshop into the studio during the early-90s, allowing the opportunity to aggregate source material. She has since used Photoshop as a drawing-tool to not only combine found media, but also, edit, manipulate, and layer information. Held additionally relies on preset PSD filters to generate unexpected visual scenarios. A sort of intuitive image processing emerges via this interfacing with found media and the computer.

A leap of faith occurs as these digital files are translated into analog by the artist onto the loom. A detailed graphite drawing acts as the intermediary, interpreting the visual occurrences of photoshop to a physical, binary code she follows while weaving. As yarn is woven, Held is hindered somewhat blind, only able to view the tapestry from behind as the final face of the tapestry is revealed when complete and removed from the loom. This is further complicated by color. What we see is reliant on a spectrum of available dyed wool yarn on the market. Held approximates what she observes on screen in a way similar to a printer dealing with color that is out of gamut. Through this process, we are left with intricate moments of translation between the digital and physical; unique descriptions of time, space, perspective, and being.

For medical reasons, Held is currently unable to produce at the level she has for the past five decades. The selection of works on view have not been exhibited in Milwaukee before. In addition, we will be showing a suite of preparatory drawings Held utilizes in generating her weavings. These works offer insight to the complexity of Held's process and thinking. We hope you can join us along with Sheila, at the opening reception on Friday, January 20th from 5-7pm.







1500 N Farwell Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
info@thegreengallery.biz
(414) 226-1978

The Green Gallery

Sheila Held

Lives and works in Milwaukee, WI, USA

Education

BA in Comparative Religions and English; Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI; 1968.

Solo Exhibitions

- 1987 Michigan Technological University; Houghton, MI
- 1999 West Bend Art Museum; West Bend, WI
- 2005 Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum; Milwaukee, WI
- 2008 The Underwood Gallery; Wauwatosa, WI
- 2013 Sheila Held: Rappaccini's Daughter; The Lynden Sculpture Garden; Milwaukee, WI
- 2016 John Michael Kohler Arts Center; Wisconsin Wild and Tame; Sheboygan, WI
- 2017 The Green Gallery; Sheila Held, Attempts at a Unified Theory; Milwaukee, WI
- 2020 Tif Sigfrids; Attempt at a Unified Theory; Athens, GA
- 2023 The Green Gallery; Sheila Held, Attempts at a Unified Theory; Milwaukee, WI

Select Group Exhibitions

- 1984 Paper/Fiber VII (Juried); The Arts Center; Iowa City, IA
- 1985 After Her Own Image: Women's Work 1985 (Juried); Fine Arts Center, Salem Academy and College; Winston-Salem, NC
International Juried Art Competition; Mussavi Gallery; New York, NY
- 1986 The Artist's Society International Art Exhibition (Juried); ASI Gallery; San Francisco, CA
- 1987 Fiber National '87 (Juried); Adams Memorial Gallery; Dunkirk, NY
- 1988 Wisconsin Women in the Arts Traveling Exhibit (Juried); various Midwestern galleries (through December 1989)
- 1992 Invented Landscapes (Juried); Cudahy Gallery of Wisconsin Arts, Milwaukee Art Museum; Milwaukee, WI
Crafts National 26 (Juried); Zoller Gallery, Pennsylvania State University; University Park, PA
- 1993 Needle Points (Invitational); John Michael Kohler Arts Center; Sheboygan, WI
Fiberart International 93 (Juried); Pittsburgh Center for the Arts; Pittsburgh, PA
National Juried Fine Art Show; State of the Art Gallery; Ithaca, NY
- 1994 Greater Midwest International IX (Juried); Art Center Gallery, Central Missouri State University; Warrensburg, MO

1500 N Farwell Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
info@thegreengallery.biz
(414) 226-1978

The Green Gallery

- 1995 The 38th Annual Chautauqua National Exhibition of American Art (Juried); Chautauqua Art Association Galleries; Chautauqua, NY.
The Wisconsin Arts Board Grants Recipient Show (Invitational); McMillan Gallery, Madison, Wisconsin; Crossman Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Art Museum
- 1996 Enhancing the Living Space (Invitational); West Bend Art Museum; West Bend, WI
- 1997 Galex 31 (Juried); Galesburg Civic Art Center; Galesburg, IL
Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council 74th Annual Exhibition (Juried); Bergstrom-Mahler Museum; Neenah, WI
- 1998 Lest We Forget -- A National Survey of Artists' Responses to the Gulf War (Juried); Armory Art Center; West Palm Beach, FL
Three Rivers Art Festival Juried Visual Arts Exhibition; Pittsburgh, PA
17th Annual Hoyt National Art Show (Juried); The Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts; New Castle, PA
- 1999 Fantastic Fibers, The Yeiser Art Center's Twelfth Annual Invitational Fiber Exhibit; Paducah, KY
Mayfair Festival of the Arts National Juried Fine Crafts Exhibition; Open Space Gallery; Allentown, PA
USA Craft Today 99 (Juried); Silvermine Guild Arts Center; New Canaan, CT
- 2000 New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts International Juried Show; Summit, NJ
Texas National 2000 (Juried); Stephen F. Austin State University Gallery; Nacogdoches, TX
Arts 2000: The Beginning (Juried); Salem Art Association/Bush Barn Art Center; Salem, OR
Silverhawk Internet Exhibition (Juried); October, (through June, 2002)
- 2001 14th Annual ARTstravaganza Juried Art Exhibition; Hunter Museum of American Art; Chattanooga, TN
Fellowship in Craft (Invitational); Zazen Gallery; Belleville, WI
2001 Kendall College of Art & Design Juried Competition; Ferris State University; Grand Rapids, MI
- 2002 Cambridge Art Association National Prize Show 2002 (Juried); Cambridge, MA
Matter as Protagonist (Juried); Creative Arts Workshop; New Haven, CT
- 2003 International Juried Show; New Jersey Center for Visual Arts; Summit, NJ
Crafts National 37 (Juried); Zoller Gallery, Pennsylvania State University; State College, PA
- 2004 Northern National Art Competition (Juried); Nicolet Gallery; Rhinelander, WI
- 2005 The Mighty Midwest Biennial (Juried); New Visions Gallery; Marshfield, WI (through January 14, 2006)
- 2006 Cambridge Art Association's 2006 National Prize Show (Juried); Cambridge, MA
- 2007 9th Annual All Media International Online Juried Art Exhibition; Upstream People Gallery
Art Futura 2007: Innovation (Juried); Chicago Cultural Center; Chicago, IL
- 2008 Northern National Art Competition (Juried); Nicolet College Art Gallery; Rhinelander, WI

1500 N Farwell Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
info@thegreengallery.biz
(414) 226-1978

The Green Gallery

- 2013 D.I.V.A.S. -- Divine Inspirational Visual Artistic Souls -- National Association of Women Artists 2013 First Online Exhibition (Juried); N.A.W.A. Online Gallery (through January 24, 2014)
- 2015 The Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund Fellowships for Individual Artists 2013 Exhibition; INOVA (Institute of Visual Arts), Milwaukee, WI
28th Annual Northern National Art Competition; Nicolet Art Gallery, Nicolet College; Rhinelander, WI
The Collectors Show (invitational); curated by the Fire Barn Gallery in partnership with ArtPrize and Conduit Design Studio; Conduit Design, Grand Rapids, MI
2015 ArtPrize; Cathedral Square; Grand Rapids, MI
- 2016 John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Super Natural, Sheboygan, WI
- 2019 John Michael Kohler Arts Center; Mary Nohl and the Walrus Club, Sheboygan, WI
- 2022 Various Others; The Green Gallery hosted by Jo Van De Loo; Sheila Held & Sebastian Tröger: Sunnyside Up; Munich, DE

Selected Awards

- 1985 Excellence Award; International Juried Art Competition; New York, NY
- 1987 Juror's Award; Fiber National '87; Dunkirk, NY
- 1995 The Gayle Choate Johnson Family Award; 38th Annual Chautauqua National Exhibition of American Art; Chautauqua, NY
- 1997 Merit Award; Galex 31; Galesburg, IL
- 1999 Third Prize; Mayfair Festival of the Arts National Juried Fine Crafts Exhibition; Allentown, PA
- 2000 Best in Show; Arts 2000: The Beginning; Salem, OR
- 2001 Honorable Mention; 2001 Kendall College of Art & Design Juried Competition; Ferris State University; Grand Rapids, MI
- 2002 Honorable Mention; Matter as Protagonist; Creative Arts Workshop; New Haven, CT
- 2007 Third Place; Art Futura 2007: Innovation; Chicago Cultural Center; Chicago, IL
- 2015 Contributor's Award; 28th Annual Northern National Art Competition; Nicolet Art Gallery, Nicolet College; Rhinelander, WI

Grants

- 1994 Individual Artist's Fellowship; Wisconsin Arts Board
- 2013 Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fellowship for an established artist

1500 N Farwell Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211
info@thegreengallery.biz
(414) 226-1978

The Green Gallery

Public and Corporate Placements

Residence Hall; Western Oregon State College; Monmouth, OR
Murphy, Paulson, Murphy & Schroeder, S.C.; Racine, WI (commission)
Health Research Center of the Medical College of Wisconsin; Milwaukee, WI (commission)
The Stayer Center for Technology and Learning; Marian College; Fond du Lac, WI (commission)
Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services World Headquarters; Watertown, WI (commission)