

Vita Wells
The Stories We Live By

The Art of the Book
At the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts

The latest exhibition at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts features artwork by Vita Wells. The exhibit, *The Stories We Live By*, opens Saturday, January 14th with a reception for the artist from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Cherry Center. An artist's talk with Ms. Wells will precede the reception at 2 p.m.

The core theme of Wells' work over the years has been perspective—the constructed nature of how we see ourselves and the world; the factors of the past and present that shape that perspective; and the role reading plays in identity-formation and meaning-making.

“Perception has been a core theme in my work over the years, particularly in relation to identity-formation and meaning-making. I'm interested in the constructed and plastic nature of how we see ourselves and the world, the contextual factors of the past and present that shape that perception, and reading's significant role in creating those formative contexts,” Wells says.

At once precise and offhand, her mixed-media installations link seemingly disparate subjects within a network of associations—sometimes based on clever wordplay—that bridges ideas across eras and cultures.

This program is made possible, in part, through a grant from the Arts Council for Monterey County through funds from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the Harden Foundation and the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Youth Fund.

Information: (831) 624-7491 (831) 624-7491 or, for a preview of upcoming exhibits, programs, and events, visit the Cherry's new website at www.carlcherrycenter.org. The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, is located at the corner of Fourth and Guadalupe, Carmel. The exhibit can be seen Monday through Friday from 11 to 4 p.m., or by appointment, through February 20th, 2012.

Vita Wells: Biographical Sketch

Vita Wells has been creating objects since she was old enough to wield an exacto knife. While involved in textile arts in the late 1990's, Wells was given a provocative book. Compelled to deploy her exacto knife on the volume, she found the results to be quite satisfying. Not abandoning her loom, spindle and dye pots completely, she expanded her toolbox to include a jigsaw, bandsaw, drill press and oxyacetylene torch, and her media to include copper, steel, and books.

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While Wells has participated in group shows over the years, the Cherry Center's exhibition is the first comprehensive presentation of her book-based work.

Wells has lived and worked in diverse settings through several chapters of life, but reading has held a privileged place in all of them. The biographical scaffolding for those chapters is: born and bred in South Texas (Maverick family); Williams College (history), Yale (theology and social ethics), and Yale (finance); a corporate run (finance, logistics systems); community service (The Crucible, Habitat for Humanity, others); textiles (collector, maker, Textile Museum); motherhood (three beautiful boys); and peregrina (Camino de Compostela).