



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT LIES BENEATH: MAGGY ROZYCKI HILTNER'S HAND-STITCHED NARRATIVES

Exhibition Dates: May 26-September 16, 2016// Faith Pickton and Josephine Aresty Gallery
First Friday with Maggy Rozycki Hiltner: June 2, 5–8 PM, Gallery Talk at 7 PM
Saturday + Artist Discussion: June 3, 11 AM–12 PM

Missoula, MT / May 16, 2017 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) – Missoula Art Museum will be showing new textile works by Red Lodge-based artist Maggy Rozycki Hiltner that may at first appear whimsical, but on closer inspection reveal a strong engagement with socio-political issues. She combs antique and thrift stores looking for source material, seeking hand-stitched linens and quilts. She ties charged messages into and against the comfortable and innocuous medium of fabric and stitching. Her exhibition at MAM, *What Lies Beneath*, brings these subtexts to light.

In this exhibition, Hiltner uses the skeleton as a metaphor to point to these mechanisms. After considering the design and history of a quilt pattern, Hiltner creates an aesthetic response. In *Requiem*, for example, Hiltner employs a found quilt of the Whirling Logs design (also called *Catch Me if You Can* or *Hooked Cross*). This centuries-old pattern was an auspicious symbol given in friendship or as a wedding gift, but fell out of favor when the swastika was appropriated by the National Socialist German Worker's Party in 1920. Forever tainted by Nazi association, the quilt is transformed and eulogized by Hiltner's hand-stitching.

In other pieces, including *What Lies Beneath* and *We Do Not Bury the Dead, We Sow Them*, the skeletons, with their collections of bright flowers and ever-present grins, embody change, growth, and perhaps even hope. Hiltner remains reflective, "My hope is that if the image I've created feels true, it will transmute for the viewer, evoke a recognition within. Our anxieties, insecurities, joys, and pains are oddly common."

Hiltner will also host a free *Saturday Family Art Workshop* at MAM on June 3 from 1 to 3 PM and a workshop called *Embroidery Collage, Found, Hand-stitched, and Altered* on August 19 from 10 to 4 PM.

(image credit):Maggy Hiltner, *Memento Mori (Time)*, 2016, hand-stitched cotton and linen, found embroidery, 27 x 21 inches.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Brandon Reintjes, Senior Curator, brandon@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x230.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION // FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum engages artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.