

'Volume 50: Chronicling Fiber Art for Three Decades' exhibit

September 12 - 20, 2020

browngrotta arts, Wilton, CT

A much delayed and anticipated exhibit opens September 12th.

An exhibit celebrating browngrotta's continued support of pioneers in the textile art field, documenting art for the past thirty years with 50 catalogs and monographs.

Volume 50: Chronicling Fiber Art for Three Decades will open — at last — on September 12, 2020. It will include work by 60+ important artists in fiber, ceramics, and mixed media, who have helped define the modern craft movement since the 1980s. The exhibition will be on view — with a safe viewing protocol in place — from September 12th through 20th at browngrotta arts, 276 Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT 06897.

A forerunner in the field, browngrotta arts has been dedicated to researching, documenting, and raising awareness of fiber and modern craft art through exhibitions and catalogs for over 30 years. browngrotta's 50 catalogs have collectively recorded a narrative of modern craft and contributed to preserving the continuity of the field. "The catalogs produced by browngrotta arts, and the photography therein, have become so superior, they are an important part of our literature," says Jack Lenor Larsen, author, curator and designer.

As fiber art gains renewed recognition and reappraisal from major institutions, the browngrotta arts' documentary archive, in which works by Sheila Hicks, Lenore Tawney, Ed Rossbach, Magdalena Abakanowicz and many others are showcased, is an invaluable resource. When browngrotta arts first began promoting artists in the late 1980s, they discovered two important facts about the field. First, at that time, before digital printing, galleries and museums rarely had the budget to document their exhibitions in a catalog or book. Second, regardless of the medium, when catalogs were prepared, works tended to be photographed like paintings: two lights at 45-degree angles, dimension and detail obscured. browngrotta arts set out with the intention to resolve this disparity and began an annual cataloging program recording exhibitions, artists, and works through photography that specifically captured the tactile characteristics of fiber and craft art. From the outset, Tom Grotta photographed the work with reference to scale and shape, and in the case of fiber art, a sensitivity to conveying the work's organic and haptic qualities and unusual/unique materials and varied techniques. This approach allowed for a more immersive experience of the works, one that extended beyond the time and geography limitations of exhibitions. "There are a few catalogs that go beyond the intellect to convey the spirit of the exhibition objects. The fine images of browngrotta arts' publications capture the dimension of the objects, something often lacking, yet totally necessary to the appreciation of fiber. Their publications seem to consistently engage much more than readers' minds," wrote Lotus Stack, then-Curator of Textiles at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1999.

The upcoming 50th catalog will continue browngrotta arts' tradition, featuring dozens of full-color photos. The range of works on view in the Volume 50: Chronicling Fiber Art for Three Decades exhibition will include three-dimensional sculptures of steel, fiber-optic, wood, jute, waxed linen, cotton and gold leaf and woven vessels, ceramics and basket forms of bark and twigs, bamboo, willow and cedar. Participating artists have created wall works of linen, viscose, steel, cotton, horsehair, fish scales and in one case, silk, from silkworms raised by the artists. The techniques are as varied as the materials — layering, weaving, plaiting, knotting, molding, ikat, tying, bundling, crochet, and katagami.

Safe Viewing Information:

browngrotta arts will be open with safe viewing practice in place from 1 p.m. Saturday the 12th until 5 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday the 13th through Sunday the 20th. Only 15 visitors will be permitted each hour. Masks are required. Viewing will be in one direction. Art and catalog sales will be contactless, and surfaces will be disinfected between visits.

Timed ticketed reservations are required. Book your hour visit on Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/volume-50-chronicling-fiber-art-for-three-decades-tickets-118242792375?aff=bgartsweb>

For more information, call 203-834-0623; email: art@browngrotta.com or visit <http://www.browngrotta.com>