



Dr. Frances Geesin

Title: Nano Landscapes

Medium: digital print onto fabric

Dimension: 30 x 40cm

Date: 2010

Statement

" Making things, the feeling that I want to know what I don't and want to see what I cannot, makes my hands work." (Yoshiko Takemura)

My beginnings were in painting but I moved into textiles, which led to another type of painting. My drawing tools are heat guns, soldering irons and conductive paints; a domestic iron, a heat press and an electroplating system. By engaging with industry I discovered thermoplastic and conductive textiles and fibers, some of which respond to the electroplating (metallizing) process. My fascination with process has enabled me to create a vocabulary of surfaces waiting to be used or developed as a creative tool. I enjoy the excitement provoked by risk taking and tapping into the spirit of a material, allowing it to speak, seeking a truth and asking "What if? How about? Shall I try?"

For this exhibition I have identified three very different types of conductive yarn one of which is braided coaxial cable. The four photographic works each represent a tightly wrapped fibre ball which releases a tail-like line. The fourth represents and compares the three. Their conductive properties permit them to be transformed from a fibre state to metal as they are electroplated copper. The electroplating makes the balls and the fibre line solid and stiff. The photographs of each individual ball are digitally printed onto cloth. The different types of yarn represent or suggest some of the characteristics of the line in drawing.

Biography

Dr. Frances Geesin is Reader in Textiles & Materials at The London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London. She is a researcher / textile artist and Artistic Advisor to the Institute of Nanotechnology and (Hon FIoN). In 2003 she was awarded The Arts Foundation Fellowship for Textile Design. Her research into conductive fibres and materials were incorporated in a collaborative project with the 'Design for Life' team at Brunel University facilitating a 'Talking Waistcoat' for the disabled. This was followed by a three-year consultancy with Philips Research where her discoveries laid the foundations for their work with wearable electronics. The electroplating of textiles has become her signature and with her partner Ron Geesin they made three interactive sound and light textile panels for The Challenge of Materials Gallery at the Science Museum. She has exhibited and lectured in the UK, Europe and Japan: the exhibitions 'Revelation - Textile artists addressing issues' and 'Through The Surface' both toured the UK concluding at the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; 'Artists at Work - New Technology in Textile and Fibre Art', Prato, Italy; She is currently working with scientists exploring Nanotechnology, exhibiting and interpreting their electron microscopic images, contributing through her practice to demystifying nano science.