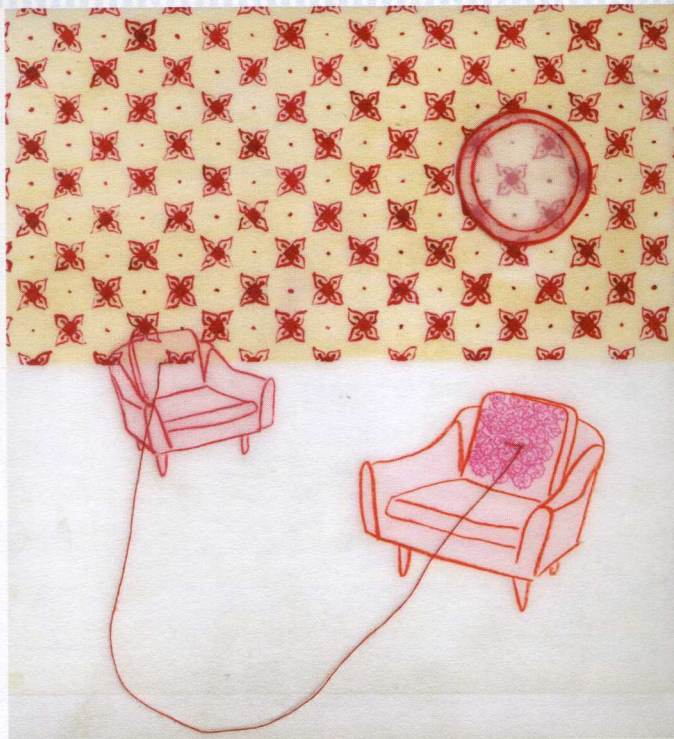


by Martha McQuade

Lisa Solomon



A self-described “mixed media artist interested in hybridization, domesticity, gender identity, and the line between art and craft,” Lisa Solomon’s work is layered, both in meaning and media. Often pairing political and environmental concepts with delicate stitchwork and drawing, she is “intrigued by the notion of hybridization; the fusing of elements that may at first glance appear to be unrelated.” A quick look at the categories of work in her portfolio affirms this: Domestic Scenes, Cupcake Drawings, His & Hers and Doily Drawings give way to Tank Installations, Robots and Rifle Targets. “I like when wrong things are fused together.”

The quietness of her work, initially appearing delicate and beautiful then morphing into a deeper, serious meaning upon closer look, seems to inform her writing as well. Her blog kind of sneaks up on you. Not a

superblogger with multiple posts and images a day, Lisa chooses to write less frequently but with more thoughtful and substantial posts. After you have been reading for awhile, you start to feel like you’re sitting down with a friend having a meaningful discussion.

Lisa started her blog as a way to let family know what she was up to, but like many blogs it grew into a “virtualsketchbook” as she used it to talk through ideas and meet other artists in the online community. Drawn to the academic side of things, Lisa likes “concept and process” and “discussing how and why artists make things.” Often, discussions generated from her posts will occur in the comments between people from all over the world with interesting and sometimes different points of view. Lisa welcomes the dialogue, naming this as one of the most positive things about having a blog. “It’s so nice to get emails and

comments from people all over the world (the world!). I’m so touched by what people have to say and what they respond to.”

Along with the deeper discussions, Lisa enjoys posting bits of inspiration, thoughts on teaching (which she does at a nearby university), photographs she’s taken, books she’s reading and images of work in progress. From this we start to get a small sense of the quiet and purposeful life she’s built, along with her husband and new baby daughter in the California Bay area.

Inspired by ordinary, mundane things, like afternoon light, her daughter’s throaty giggle, warm soup, materials, tools, and memory, “I am acutely aware of what is right in front of me—small stitches—being engaged in an all encompassing activity, and the bigger picture—the search for order, parameters and answers.”

www.monkeybrains.net/~dietrich/musings