



installation view, *Rainbow Plaza*, 2008, latex and acrylic on canvas by Michelle Weinberg, and *Indradhanush*, 2008, used and discarded garments, rain boots, steel and hardware by Guerra de la Paz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WHAT: *Polychrome Affinities*, an exhibition of work by Guerra de la Paz, Michelle Weinberg and Magali Wilensky. Curated by Michelle Weinberg
WHERE: Miami Dade Public Library System
WHEN: October 9 - December 15, 2008
Reception/Artist Talk Thursday November 13, 6-8:30pm

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***Polychrome Affinities* transforms second floor exhibition space at Miami-Dade Public Library System’s Main Branch into a rainbow plaza. On view October 9 through December 15, 2008.**

Polychrome Affinities is a collective exhibition of large-scale works by artists Guerra de la Paz, Michelle Weinberg and Magali Wilensky. The exhibition, curated by Michelle Weinberg, developed from a shared obsession among the artists involved with sorting elements from the visual environment according to color. Expressing her conception for the exhibition, Weinberg describes the artists as "magpies, scavenging elements from the visible world" and then filtering them through a deep, passionate involvement with color.



installation view, works by Magali Wilensky

The public scale of the works transforms the exhibition space into a vibrant, larger than life theater set, a veritable rainbow plaza. Visitors enter and exit the elevators to the second floor through Weinberg's 16' x 40' mural on canvas depicting an imaginary plaza or strip mall inspired by Miami's storefronts and building facades. Guerra de la Paz has erected a vast arch assembled from found articles of clothing in colors of the rainbow. Titled *Indradhanush*, it expresses the spiritual power the rainbow in humanist terms. Ascending the staircase to the second floor are low relief sculptures of organic, possibly cellular forms by Wilensky, formed by rolled and sewn fabric remnants. They are micro-organisms rendered here at the scale of spectacle. Weinberg's planes, facades and building elevations, Guerra de la Paz's castoffs and costumes, and Wilensky's slivers of anatomy all act as "cross-sections" or slices of reality, stylized interpretations with symbolic resonance.

All the artists are stimulated by exhibiting their works in public places such as the library. Artifacts, meaningful ephemera, swatches of materials, sketchbooks, related books in the library's collection, and source images are exhibited near the exhibition to share a behind-the-scenes look at the artists' creative processes.

Helen Kohen, former Miami Herald art critic, and presently Director of the Library's Vasari Project, has contributed an essay on *Polychrome Affinities* which appears in a takeaway printed poster available to visitors in the gallery. She comments, "Having siphoned their creative energies from the real world, the artists responsible for the artworks in *Polychrome Affinities* have temporarily transformed the "Quiet, please" of the library's ambience into an animated world. The space nonetheless feels comfortable, slightly folkloric, familiar. It is as if Guerra de la Paz, Weinberg and Wilensky have crisscrossed the exterior plaza, scaled the walls of the structure's elevation, and brought the outside, inside."

"This has been my ideal kind of project," says Library Curator Denise Delgado. "It's the result of a collaborative process between the library and the artists, with work made specifically for the space. It's exciting to see people respond to the transformation." Along with site-specific projects like *Polychrome Affinities*, the Library's Art Services and Exhibitions Department curates a year-round program of exhibitions, performances, lectures, and discussions, and maintains a special collection of over 2,200 works of art that are installed throughout the Library System. Main Library will host a reception and artist talk for *Polychrome Affinities* on Thursday, November 13 from 6:00-8:30 pm. All exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.

High resolution images are available upon request.