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Forest, For The Trees: A Fiber Environment  
Co-sponsored by Yarn Bombing Los Angeles and Arroyo Arts Collective

OC Fair Visual Arts  
July 13-August 12, 2012  
OC Fair & Event Center  
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
(714) 708-1500  
<http://ocfair.com/2012/index.asp>

Yarn Bombing Los Angeles and the Arroyo Arts Collective present Forest, For The Trees: A Fiber Environment on display in Visual Arts during the OC Fair July 13-August 12, 2012.

In November of 2011, the Arroyo Arts Collective initiated and Yarn Bombing Los Angeles helped to produce Forest, For The Trees by inviting artists from all over the world to contribute to an ever expanding and traveling installation. Debuted in the Annex section of the Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park, sections of that installation found a new life, in the window of the Craft and Folk Art Museum, appropriately facing the LA Brea Tar Pits, the famous Ice Age fossil excavation site where remains of numerous extinct species are studied and displayed. The installation was displayed during Eat, Drink, Art, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Biannual Benefit at Barnsdall Art Park before arriving at the OC Fair Visual Arts Building, and will be on display at Angels Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro next year.

Old-growth forests, through their great age, exhibit unique ecological features and are often home to rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals, making them ecologically significant. Unfortunately, many of our old-growth forest stands are threatened by habitat destruction at the invasive hands of man. This exhibition hopes to address the wonders and perils of the forest by creating an environment that is at once unique and fantastic, dangerous and bizarre, and by acknowledging that one day the built environment may be all that's left us.

Artists, whose talents extend from novice to expert crafters, have created trees, groundcover, animals, water, rain and much more. Works use standard, recycled, and unusual materials, and/or push the knit/crochet envelope. Participating artists include: Edith Abeyta; Leslie Brown; Yolanda Diaz; Katelyn Dorroh; Beth Elliott; Jacque Lene Engel; Carmela Gomes; Margaret Hatfield; Heather Hoggan; Amy Caterina Hill; Lisa Jong; Arzu Arda Kosar; Justine Leong; Tyler Mitzner; Lauri Mraz; Racquel "Rocky" Ormsby; David Orozco; Adrianna Rianna; Connie Rohman; Erin Shea; Ann Storc; Kacy Treadway; Jane Wang; Jessica Wards; Tracy Williams; Darlyn Susan Yee; and Carol Zou.

A special thank you to everyone, in every state and or country, who contributed to this project including, Lions Brand® Yarn, ARTSgarage, the OC Fair & Event Center, The Heritage Square Museum and the Fiber Studio at Studio Channel Islands.

Yarn Bombing Los Angeles (YBLA) is a group of guerrilla knitters who have been collaborating since 2010 to stage public installations and performances to help expand the definitions of public art to include street art, and street art and graffiti to include yarn bombing. The eclectic group encompasses all ages, genders and backgrounds. YBLA includes professional artists as well as novice crafters; materials range from yarn to cut up garbage bags; techniques range from knitting, crocheting, needle work, weaving, collage, spray painting on knit material etc; the pieces maybe whimsical, humorous, conceptual or political. The common thread is creation of work that pushes the knit/crochet envelope, and our presentation of the work in the public realm. Monthly meetings take place every 3rd Saturday, 2-5pm at Craft And Folk Art Museum 5814 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90036. For additional information, please visit <http://www.yarnbombinglosangeles.com>

The Arroyo Arts Collective was established in 1989 as a community organization of artists, writers and performers who live and work in Northeast Los Angeles, including the neighborhoods of Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights and Eagle Rock. Historically rich in tradition, the area bordering the Arroyo Seco was Los Angeles' first cultural center at the beginning of the 20th century and the site of the Southwest Museum, the city's first. A large concentration of artists continues to reside in northeast Los Angeles in some of the city's most thoroughly multicultural and richly diverse neighborhoods. For additional information, please visit <http://www.arroyoartscollective.org>

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