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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Justin Gibbens

Telephone: (509) 964-2443

Email: art@punchgallery.org

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Hours: Noon – 5 pm, Thurs–Sat,

Or by appointment: art@punchgallery.org

PUNCH, 119 Prefontaine Place S.

Seattle, WA 98104

www.punchgallery.org, (206) 621-1945

March 4 – 27, 2010

Opening Reception:

5-8 p.m., First Thursday, March 4, 2010



Sheila Klein and Ries Niemi met in 1972 in a class on screen-printing on fabric. They had both been working in textiles for several years at that time. They were married in 1978. They are still both working in textiles, among many other mediums, today. They each maintain their own careers and art trajectories. Between the two of them, they have tied hundreds of thousands of knots.

Ries Niemi is a maximalist. Too much is never enough for him. Niemi has been sewing and embroidering since 8th grade, and is still at it today, defying sexual stereotypes. Once, in a grocery store checkout line, a nice old lady told him "Honey, don't you grow up and be one of THOSE kind of girls". He has heeded that advice.

Midlife Misfortunes is a large self-portrait made from embroidered fortunes, the kind you would find in cloth fortune cookies, if they were self-deprecating, grandiose, ironic, and silly. *Shed Boy Quilt*, made from blue tarp, visqueen, and handmade Nepalese paper, reminds us that quilt making is actually a long time pursuit of manly men, with soldiers and sailors having made them for centuries. Nothing keeps you quite as cozy on a cold Northwest night like a Blue Tarp.

Sheila Klein made her first artwork in Grade One. It was the beginning of performing with materials. The teacher was mean and wouldn't allow erasers. Klein figured out that she could erase the paper with her rubber-soled gym shoes. She got caught.

Map of Everything is a work that combines Sheila Klein's interest in architecture, pattern, and the hand that shapes them. Klein blurs the boundaries between art, architecture, sculpture, theater, fashion, and textile design. *Map of Everything* started with a crocheted textile based on architect Le Corbusier's 1922 concept "City of 3 Million Inhabitants." This town plan is rooted in one of the oldest traditions of urban design, which makes an ancient intuitive gesture by which people take possession of a space. These historic patterns serve as the basis for his visionary urban planning schemes, which relied on precedents of geometric progression to create order. The pattern of *Map of Everything* is a figure/ground configuration displaying bilateral symmetry representing buildings and roadways. *Hall of Architecture* grew out of a realization that Sheila Klein's varied interests had deep connections to each other. As a child growing up in Pittsburgh, Klein spent many weekends at the Carnegie Museum of Art. The Hall of Architecture served as her corridor between the art galleries and the library. When Klein traveled to India in 2008, she found the perforated lacy window walls to be so much like crocheted architecture - formed by a series of posts and interstices creating a geometric hierarchy. Klein was recently included in an exhibition titled *Imagining Home* at the Carnegie Museum of Art Heinz Architecture Center.