

VELVET DA VINCI

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Kay + June: Vessels by Kay Sekimachi and June Schwarcz

April 1 - 30, 2014

In celebration of the SFO Museum's exhibition "*Turn, Weave, Fire, and Fold: Vessels from the Forrest L. Merrill Collection*," Velvet Da Vinci is proud to exhibit an important collection of works by two California masters, fiber artist **Kay Sekimachi** and enamelist **June Schwarcz**. The show will run from April 1st through the 30th, 2014.

Well known for her enameled copper vessels, 96 year old June Schwarcz studied industrial design before experimenting with metal fabrication techniques and surface treatments, such as electroforming, etching and engraving. Her abstract forms are renowned for their rich textured surfaces, built from multiple layers of transparent enamels that vary in color and opacity. Organic in shape and composition, Schwarcz's innovative pieces can be found in the collections of the De Young Museum in San Francisco, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the Smithsonian Museum's Renwick Gallery in Washington DC and the Museum of Applied Arts in Zurich, among others. A California native, Schwarcz lives in an art-filled home in Sausalito and continues to make work nearly every day.

Kay Sekimachi constructs three dimensional woven forms and fabricated paper vessels that explore ideas of space, transparency, and movement. Utilizing labor intensive processes and techniques, the artist creates serene and elegant functional and nonfunctional objects using both natural and man-made materials. Elements such as bark, paper, twine, coral and shell are transformed into intricate vessel forms, suspended pieces, and sculptural jewelry, inspired by the artist's ancestral homeland of Japan. Born in 1926 in San Francisco, Sekimachi studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland from 1946 to 1949. Today, at 87 years old, Sekimachi is recognized as a pioneer of the craft field, celebrated for her inventive explorations in fiber. She presently lives, works, and maintains an active studio in Berkeley, CA.

Since 1991, Velvet da Vinci has been a leader in showcasing new developments in contemporary art jewelry and craft-based sculpture. Representing artists from the US, Europe, Latin America and Japan, the quality and range of work shown at Velvet da Vinci gallery has made it a regular must-see stop for collectors, museum curators, and other knowledgeable art and art-jewelry enthusiasts. We invite you to visit the gallery at 2015 Polk Street in San Francisco, or online at www.velvetdavinci.com.

***High-res images and further information are available upon request.**



June Schwarcz
Vessel 2461, 2012
Copper, enamel
4 X 6 X 10 1/2"



June Schwarcz
Vessel 2376, 2012
Copper, enamel
8 1/2 X 8 X 7 1/4"



June Schwarcz
Vessel 2454, 2012
Silver
8 1/2 X 8 1/2 X 10 1/2"



June Schwarcz
Vessel 2383, 2009
Copper, enamel
4 1/2 X 8"



Kay Sekimachi
Vessel #5, 2014
Khaki paper with linen threads
6 3/4 X 5"



Kay Sekimachi
Vessel #02, 2014
Brown hornets nest paper bowl
6 3/4" X 3 1/4"



Kay Sekimachi
Painted Coral Pins, 2012
Approximately 1 1/4 X 3/4" each



Kay Sekimachi
Black + White Twine Lines
Split ply, paper cord, Danish twine
Approximately 10 X 6 X 5" each