



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Textile Center Announces Two Inaugural McKnight Fiber Artist Fellows



From left: Installation Detail by Liz Miller; *Scream* by Eun-Kyung Suh.

(Minneapolis, MN – January 9, 2020) – Textile Center is proud to announce the two recipients of the 2020 McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists: Liz Miller and Eun-Kyung Suh.

Designed to identify and support outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists, the McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists provide recipients with a \$25,000 unrestricted cash award. In addition, the fellows receive public recognition, studio visits with critics from the field, an exhibition in the Joan Mondale Gallery at Textile Center, professional development support, participation in public discussions featuring fellows and critics, and access to Textile Center's resources, including a library of more than 30,500 books and periodicals and a state-of-the-art dye lab. The fellowships are funded by the McKnight Foundation and administered by Textile Center.

"The McKnight Foundation is the first private family foundation in the nation to provide unrestricted awards of this size specifically to artists in the field of fiber arts," says Textile Center Executive Director Karl Reichert. "This year marks the first for fiber art to be recognized as a distinct discipline alongside 13 other fellowship categories, and is a historic event for our field. It is an honor to be working with McKnight, an outstanding pool of applicants, and the esteemed jurors."

"The fact that 63 outstanding fiber artists applied for these two inaugural McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists speaks to the need for these fellowships and the important place fiber art has within our arts community," says Tracy Krumm, Textile Center Director for Artistic Advancement. "We congratulate Liz Miller and Eun-Kyung Suh for being the first to receive McKnight Fiber Art Fellowships. We are grateful to the McKnight Foundation for its extraordinary support of working fiber artists in Minnesota through its McKnight Artist Fellowships."

The 2020 McKnight Fiber Art Fellows were selected by a panel of three arts professionals of varying backgrounds, whose careers reflect the field of fiber art in numerous ways. This year's jurors were:

- Elissa Auther, Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs and Mildred Lasdon Chief Curator at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York. She has published widely on a diverse set of topics, including her book *String, Felt, Thread: The Hierarchy of Art and Craft in American Art*, which focuses on the broad utilization of fiber in art of the 1960s and 1970s and the changing hierarchical relationship

between art and craft expressed by the medium's new visibility. Her most recent exhibitions for MAD include *Surface/Depth: The Decorative After Miriam Schapiro* and *Vera Paints a Scarf: The Art and Design of Vera Neumann*.

- Karen Hampton, an internationally recognized conceptual artist, addressing issues of colorism and kinship within the African American community. Hampton's art practice is the synthesis of memory, history, time, and cloth. Hampton serves on the Board of Directors of the Textile Society of America and is an Assistant Professor at Massachusetts College of Art and Design.
- Mark Newport, artist, educator, and currently the Artist in Residence and Head of Fiber at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. His work has been shown nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions at The Arizona State University Art Museum, The Cranbrook Art Museum, The Chicago Cultural Center, and Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, MO. It is currently on view at the Third Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art in Hangzhou, China. The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum are a few of the many public collections that include his work.

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## ABOUT THE FELLOWS



### Liz Miller

Liz Miller's work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad. Past awards include a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, a McKnight Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, a Jerome Foundation Fellowship, and several Artist Initiative Grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Miller has participated in artist residencies at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, LA and the McColl Center for Art and Innovation in Charlotte, NC. She lives and works in Good Thunder, MN, and is Professor of Installation Art and Drawing at Minnesota State University – Mankato.

### Eun-Kyung Suh

Korean-born, Duluth-based textile installation artist Eun-Kyung Suh received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA, USA. Since 2008 she has focused on a series of sculptural vessels as metaphors for personal, family, and cultural memories. These vessels are created out of diaphanous textiles, originally inspired by Bojagi, a traditional Korean art form. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and was published in *Textiles: The Art of Mankind* (Thames & Hudson), *Surface Design Journal (SDA)*, *Metalsmith (SNAG)*, and others. Currently, Eun-Kyung Suh is a professor in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.



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## ABOUT THE MCKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

Founded on the belief that Minnesota thrives when its artists thrive, the McKnight Foundation's arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Support for individual working Minnesota artists has been a cornerstone of the program since it began in 1981. McKnight Artist Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 14 different creative

disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique development opportunities of different disciplines. Currently the foundation contributes about \$1.7 million per year to its statewide fellowships. For more information, visit [mcknight.org/artistfellowships](http://mcknight.org/artistfellowships).

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#### **ABOUT THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION**

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, advances a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive. Established in 1953, the McKnight Foundation is deeply committed to advancing climate solutions in the Midwest; building an equitable and inclusive Minnesota; and supporting the arts in Minnesota, neuroscience, and international crop research. The Foundation has approximately \$2.3 billion in assets and grants about \$90 million a year.

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#### **TEXTILE CENTER – A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FIBER ART**

Textile Center is unique as America's national center for fiber art, with a mission to honor textile traditions, promote excellence and innovation, and inspire widespread participation in fiber arts. The Center's resources include exceptional fiber art exhibitions, an artisan shop, a professional-grade dye lab, a natural dye plant garden, and one of the nation's largest circulating textile libraries open to the public. Textile Center produces more than 200 classes a year for all ages and skill levels through its youth, adult, older adult, and outreach programs. A dynamic hub of fiber activity for 25 years, Textile Center brings people together in community to learn, create, share, and be inspired by fiber art. For more information, visit: <http://textilecentermn.org>.

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