

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June Sekiguchi: Pattern Play

November 6 – December 31, 2008

Opening Reception: First Thursday, November 6, 5-8 pm

Seattle, Washington – October 4, 2008

Kill date – December 31, 2008

ArtXchange Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by June Sekiguchi highlighting her diverse sculptural work in scrollcut wood. This exhibition of playful, interactive sculpture explores the diversity and unity of cultures around the world through forms and shapes. Drawing from her interest in forms and shapes, Sekiguchi's work investigates the transitions where universal patterns evolve into ethnic identity and personal aesthetic. Her work explores points of intersection, both geographical, such as rivers and trading routes, and conceptual, like language and shape, where cross-cultural exchange occurs.

The centerpiece of "Pattern Play" is a group of interchangeable "Stacking Blocks," intricately scrollcut in iconic patterns from Southeast Asia to Northwest Africa. The collection is based on the basic shapes of children's building blocks. By increasing the proportions, Sekiguchi plays with memory of building blocks to form a new experience. Children's blocks in such large scale become overwhelmingly architectural, reminding the viewer of the relationship of simple shapes to all human construction. June Sekiguchi will be present at ArtXchange Gallery periodically throughout the exhibition to rearrange and reconfigure the installation.

Continuing Sekiguchi's theme of play and children's toys is 'Jack,' an ingeniously constructed work of several intersecting planes that is her interpretation of the game of jacks. Another lively piece, 'Polyhedron,' is constructed from multiple shapes that are attached with hinges. The resulting work can be displayed as a three-dimensional polyhedron or as a flat 'fold out' of squares and triangles, hinting at Sekiguchi's underlying interest in geometry.

"Pattern Play" takes a more personal turn in works like "Light Boxes." Each box in the series of seven features a pattern that has personal connection to a specific time in Sekiguchi's life, from secret symbols to iconic cultural motifs. The lightboxes, softly glowing through scrollcut white plexiglass, create a luminous self-portrait through pattern.

The range of work in "Pattern Play" exhibits the diversity of Sekiguchi's oeuvre and what she can achieve with her signature technique of scrollcut wood. Sekiguchi uses a scroll saw to cut patterns in wood that she then paints and layers for wall hung constructions and sculptures. Her approach to piecing together the constructions expresses her interest in combining separate entities to form a greater whole. Individual elements are constructed in successive layers, creating textures of light and shadow that both reveal and obscure what is behind.

June Sekiguchi's installation work was recently seen in "How the Soy Sauce was Bottled" at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. She is a member of Shift Studio, a Seattle artist co-op and a founding member of the ArtEAST artist co-op in Issaquah. June is a graduate of the Artist Trust Edge program and has received awards from Artist Trust, 4Culture, King County Public Art Collection and the George Tsutakawa Sculpture Scholarship from Pratt Fine Arts Center. June Sekiguchi is represented by ArtXchange Gallery.

"Pattern Play" opens November 6, during the First Thursday Artwalk in Pioneer Square, from 5-8 pm. The artist will be in attendance and further interviews can be arranged by contacting ArtXchange.

LOCATION: ArtXchange Gallery, 512 First Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104

HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 5:30 PM, First Thursday until 8 PM

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Gallery Mission: ArtXchange Gallery is a contemporary international art gallery that aims to inspire cultural exploration, the expansion of global community and the exchange of ideas through art, film and photography. We exhibit contemporary art from around the world that reflects the diversity of influences shaping today's global culture.

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