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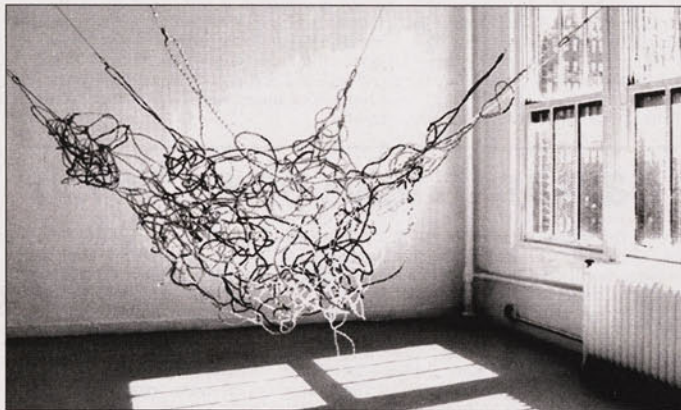
Thursday, October 21, 2010

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## HAPPENINGS

### Trace the 'Path of Particles' at Finlandia



Courtesy photos

Above, a sculpture made by New York artist Natsu, right, is shown. "Path of Particles," an exhibit of sculptures by Natsu, will be featured at the Finlandia University Gallery, located in the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, will debut with a reception from 7 to 8:30 p.m. today and run through Nov. 20. A talk by Natsu will start at 7:15 tonight.



HANCOCK — "Path of Particles," an exhibit of sculpture by New York artist Natsu, will be featured at the Finlandia University Gallery, located in the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock from today through Nov. 20.

An opening reception for the exhibit will take place at the gallery from 7 to 8:30 p.m. today. Natsu will speak at 7:15 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Sparkling, complex, and organic are words that only begin to describe the metaphysical bead sculptures of artist Natsu. Using small plastic beads that are strung together and woven in a labor-intensive process, Natsu creates sculptures that explore the origins, structure, and existence of the universe — with a view to both the scientific and the mythological.

For Natsu, the process of creating her artwork is infused with meaning. "My artwork is made of intertwined strings of beads," she said. "Beads are like atoms, the basis on which the entire world is formed."

"My repetitive primitive act in the creating process, stringing beads and weaving them with my hands into a complex web structure, creates an infinite pattern symbolizing the cycle of the world," Natsu said.

Natsu's work probes the dualities of our world, from the harmony of the physical and the ethereal to the tension between natural and human made objects.

"I follow the rhythmic, nearly unconscious motion of my hands," she said. "It resembles natural growth —

as atoms (beads) arrange themselves — or instinctual behavior, like a bird weaving its nest. My hand-made, labor-intensive process of creation transforms time into art."

Natsu likens her creative process to an act of contemplation or prayer. "Through my creation, I purify myself and trace and experience the mysterious workings of the universe little by little," she said. "I am stringing and weaving my prayer, memories and moments."

Born and educated in Japan, Natsu now lives in New York City. She completed a bachelor of fine arts at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo. Her work has been exhibited widely in New York and Japan.

Natsu has also participated in many artist residency programs, including the Artist Alliance Inc. LES-RSP Residency Program, New York; the Swing Space Residency of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), New York; and the Emerge8 Program, Aljira, Center for Contemporary Art, Newark, New Jersey.

Natsu will work with Finlandia University International School of Art & Design students through Oct. 22.

"Path of Particles" is on display at the Finlandia University Gallery through November 20.

The Finlandia University Gallery is in the Finnish American Heritage Center on 435 Quincy St. in Hancock. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Call 487-7500 for more information.