

The Arts Fund Gallery:

Casting for Shadows

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

A S WINTER'S SOLSTICE DRAWS NEAR, the promise of renewal is met in every corner of *Casting for Shadows* on exhibit at The Arts Fund Gallery December 12th through January 16th.

The show features a trio of artists – Julia Ford, Rollin Fortier, and Madden Harkness – in mediums ranging from the fiber arts, to bronze sculpture, and paintings.

“As artists we work in contrasting



Untitled #2 by **Madden Harkness**

media but share many similarities in both feeling and form, to an almost synchronous degree,” said Ford, who co-curated the show with Dana Simpson of The Arts Fund. “These sculptures celebrate life’s eternal forces.”

The show came about as Ford saw the opportunity to bring three artists together whose aesthetic compliments and

enhances the others—all three artists work on a small scale, exploring organic shapes and textures with extraordinary detail. Fortier, who is an exhibition designer at UCSB’s University Art Museum, uses a lost wax process to create the miniature bronze sculptures, which are presented in drawers and cabinets like specimens a scientist might use in an empirical study. Harkness’s paintings share this miniaturist theme, where several five inch painted canvases are collected to form a whole. “There’s a curiosity embodied in the work,” said Ford. “It gives a viewer the opportunity to play with juxtapositions and

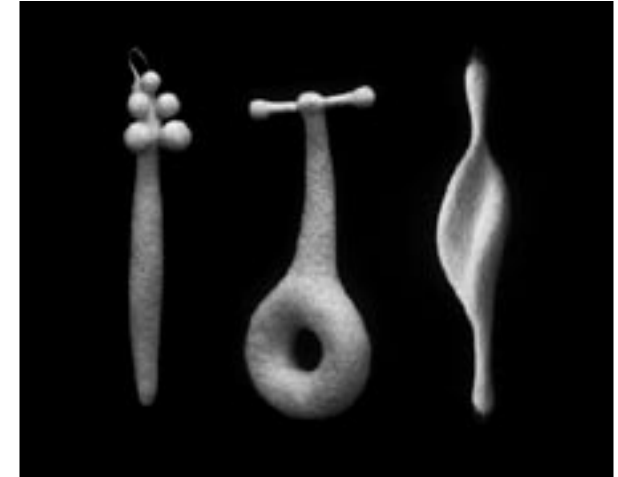


Julia Ford

develop a keener eye to see things more observantly around the world.”

Although this is the first exhibition Ford has curated, she finds herself at home in the gallery that awarded her an Individual Artist Award and where she had a solo show in 2001. Ford

grew up in England and attended Loughborough College of Art and Design in Leicestershire where she graduated with a BA in Textiles and Fashion. She holds an MFA from the University of Kansas where she studied with Cynthia Schira. Ford works with natural fibers, meticulously felting wool into delicate sculptures that can be held in the palm of one’s hand. “The process is labor intensive and there’s something about time... the way that time exists in meditation differently,” she said. “A transformation occurs

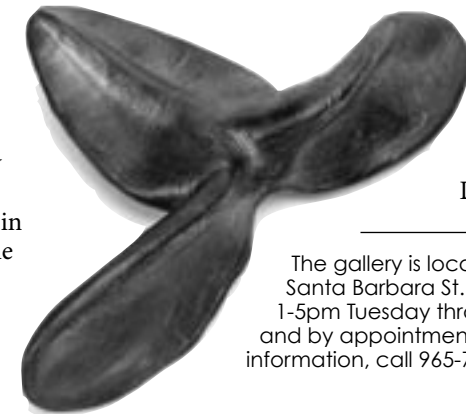


Vestiges Series 1 by **Julia Ford**

through the persistence of continuous work. It ends up being out of my hands. It takes on a life of its own.”

There will be a reception with the artists at The Arts Fund Gallery 5:30 to 7:30pm on December 12th.

The gallery is located at 205C Santa Barbara St. Gallery hours are 1-5pm Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. For more information, call 965-7321.



Untitled #7, bronze by **Rollin Fortier**