

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, June 3, 3 – 5pm

**Teaching Artist Ani Afshar Class Schedule:
Jewelry – Beads & Strings & Wires**

5 WEEK SHORT

August 2 - August 30

Thursdays: 1:00 – 3:30 pm

To register, see the front desk.

Create beautiful and unique bead and string compositions using straight beading techniques to create the Ani Afshar look. Learn to make multistrand Afshar-style wire necklaces and bracelets or chokers. Students will use fine wire and glass or beads to make several pieces. This is a special opportunity to create this unique style of textured jewelry.

\$135/members \$155/non-members

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is at once an exhibition space for contemporary art, learning annex, community resource, and social hub for the art curious and professional artists alike — carrying out its mission to stimulate and sustain the visual arts in Chicago. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; David C. and Sarajeen Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; National Endowment for the Arts; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of its members and people like you. The Hyde Park Art Center does not discriminate against any person for reason of race, gender, age, place of national origin, handicap, religious conviction, marital status, veteran status or sexual preference.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

Gallery 4

May 20 – September 2, 2012

Ani Afshar

Woven Gardens, Shredded Shadows



Ani Afshar, *In the Box*, 2010, Silk and mohair,
52 x 46 inches

Woven Gardens, Shredded Shadows features intricate hand-woven tapestries and tulle veil constructions by Turkish artist Ani Afshar. Guest curated by artist and conservator, Frank Connet in consultation with Richard A. Born, Senior Curator at the Smart Museum, the solo show spans decades of textile work by Afshar. The selection of work combines twenty-three landscape tapestries and over twenty new constructions - floating collages incorporating a combination of found fabrics, Japanese stencils, beads, tulle, foil, or collected objects - that affirm Afshar's talent for fusing jewelry design with loom weaving. All of these works are being shown publicly for the first time in this exhibition at the Hyde Park Art Center.

Afshar's stylistic consistencies and the remarkable bead work in her textile compositions from the 1990s to the present remains the focus of the exhibition. These beaded and woven artworks feature landscape formations inspired by Afshar's multicultural upbringing. Born in Istanbul, educated in Switzerland, and based in Chicago since 1979, Afshar draws on Eastern and Western traditions to craft her one-of-a-kind pieces. Afshar says of her production, "I am sure that my subconscious is flooded with all the cultures that I was exposed to and without my expressed intent they undoubtedly show up in my work." The exhibition also debuts a large wall relief installation, titled *Dancing Shadows*, made of found Turkish fabrics, tulle, wire, and beads that explores the artist's interest in the disintegration of material over time, adding a temporal dimension that is not found in her woven pieces.

The Art Center first exhibited Afshar's work in 1987 as part of a three-person exhibition also organized by Richard A. Born, who at the time described her tapestries as "simultaneously utilitarian objects and works of

independent beauty intended both for use and appreciation at the same time." This rich foundation is re-established in *Woven Gardens, Shredded Shadows* and expanded in her current practice through the compositional variations found in her work from weaving to installation.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue including images of all exhibited work and an essay by Art Historian and critic, Dennis Adrian. The catalogue is made possible with the support of the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation and will be released June 3rd.



Ani Afshar, *Climbing Trees - Gray Skies*, (detail), 2011, Silk and mohair, 55 x 55 inches

About the Artist:

Afshar began her relationship with the Art Center as a teaching artist in the school over 25 year ago. Her tapestries are included in many private collections around the country. By the 1990s, she had established herself as a successful artist making one-of-a-kind wire jewelry sold through her Lincoln Park boutique *AniAfshar*. Celebrated both in this country and abroad, Afshar's textile and jewelry designs reflect inspiration from across the globe. In 2009 Afshar closed the boutique to devote time to her contemporary artwork. She currently teaches *Jewelry: Beads and Strings and Wires* at the Art Center.

See reverse for more information.