

23 Apr 2018

Dialogues: Medium and Materiality

New Art Center in Newton

Reviewed by David Curcio

Most group exhibition titles create a preemptive veneer of legitimacy while revealing nothing about the work, as does that of this Lesley student-alum show. At first, the muteness seemed to characterize the art itself - deftly crafted but dull objects, just so much more vapid fiber art, video, mounted string, and Japan paper pouring from the ceiling.

A second visit the next day brought me back to pieces that prompted a crashing recollection that they had haunted my soul during the night. Then they proceeded to haunt it again. The noirish wall sculpture *Blood Refund II* by Kathline Carr, with its fabric book illustrated in graphite and gunpowder, stinks of murder, and the nearby gun mounted to the wall points at your heart. Nancy Roy-Meyer's *Fair* is an unholy, day-glo spawn of John Waters and Aileen Wuornos. Sarah Bates Washburn's rug *The United States of China, Made in India* is one of the rare objects of poignant commentary to emerge from the horrors of contemporary politics.