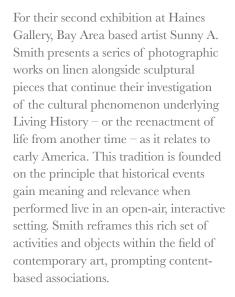
## Sunny A. Smith Living History

May 23 - July 6, 2013

Join us for an opening reception and conversation with the artist Thursday, June 20, 2013, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

During the reception we will be having a conversation between Sunny A. Smith & Julia Bryan-Wilson, Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art at University of California, Berkeley

Confederate Uniform, Frogmore Plantation, Louisiana, 2013, Archival Pigment Print on Linen, Image: 33 x 24 inches / Frame: 33 x 25 x 2 inches, Edition of 3



Smith's research-based practice is revealed through these photographs, which initially operate as a form of rigorous anthropological note taking. Printed on texturally rich linens and displayed in wood frames, the works not only play at the distinction between photograph and painting, but also evoke the craft history

they document. They photograph living history villages, museums and craft fairs throughout the United States, approaching these venues with a keen eye for scenes that relate to their work, but also instances of uncanny juxtaposition - moments where the contemporary challenges of framing this history reveal themselves. Isolated from their original contexts, the objects and environments depicted begin to function as props and sets for a performance you can imagine, but never see unfold. The absence of human presence in these pictures imparts a certain timelessness, encouraging interpretations beyond the purely historical.

The sculptural works restage early-American colonial craft and textile patterns. The unfinished tilt-top tables stand new and ready for use, like props for a reenactment. Smith, however, reinterprets the potential of these tables. They situate them in unusable positions, wrapping them in silks patterned with historical textiles rendered almost psychedelic through the manipulation of their colors and contrast. While referencing the history from which they are derived – most notably, the invention of the kaleidoscope – these reflector-like objects transform into decidedly contemporary works through Smith's intervention.

Smith's work has been the subject of numerous exhibitions and projects at institutions and is included in many collections throughout the US including the Los Angeles County

Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Indianapolis Museum of Art; Berkeley Art Museum; Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO. Later this month, Sunny A. Smith: Rudiments of Fife & Drum will open at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT. Smith is a tenured professor and Chair of the Sculpture Program at California College of the Arts.

