

LYONS WIER GALLERY

542 West 24th Street • New York • NY • 10011

For Immediate Release

September 2012

LYONS WIER GALLERY at ART MIAMI 2012

BOOTH A17

Lyons Wier Gallery is pleased to announce its first time participation at **ART MIAMI 2012** with an inaugural solo presentation by artist **Cayce Zavaglia**.



Cayce Zavaglia, *Teo*, 2010, Crewel wool and acrylic on cotton linen fabric, 12 x 34 in / 30.5 x 86.4 cm

Originally trained as a painter, Cayce Zavaglia switched to embroidery 11 years ago in an attempt to reference an embroidered piece she had made as a child growing up in Australia. Zavaglia's portraits of friends and family are hand sewn using crewel embroidery wool and take approximately 6-8 months to complete. The use of paint is limited to the background only. From a distance, they read as photo-realistic paintings, and only after closer inspection does the work's true construction reveal itself.

Zavaglia has developed a technique which has been described as "Modern Pointillism," that allows her to blend colors and establish tonalities that truly resemble the techniques used in classical oil painting. The direction in which the threads are sewn mimic the way brush marks are layered within a painting which, in turn, allows the allusion of depth, volume, and form. Her stitching methodology borders on the obsessive. This system allows her to visually evoke painterly renditions of flesh, hair, and cloth.

Cayce Zavaglia's embroidered portraits have facilitated her growing interest in a more re-contextualized approach to painting. By eliminating the use of paint to create her portraits and yet giving the illusion that it is still present, has allowed Zavaglia to further tighten the tension between portrait and process and ultimately propose a new definition for "painting". The work has the remarkable ability to conceptually transport the viewer into the emotional make-up of the sitter, creating a dialogue between each piece and its audience. This capacity moves her work beyond its technical prowess and into the realm of *Conceptual Realism*.

Cayce Zavaglia received her MFA from Washington University, St. Louis, MO and BA from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. Her embroideries have been shown at cultural institutions such as the Brattleboro Museum, VT, Textile Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, Staten Island, NY, Craft Alliance, St. Louis, MO and profiled in national publications such as *Elle Décor*, *Surface Design Magazine*, *Fiber Arts Magazine* and *New American Paintings*. Zavaglia's work is part of the permanent collection at the University of Maine, Museum of Art, Bangor, ME, the West Collection in PA and the Shoeni Collection in Hong Kong, among others. The artist lives and works in St. Louis, MO.

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Cayce Zavaglia, *Greg and I*, 2012, One-ply cotton embroidery thread on raw Belgian linen, 9 x 18 in / 22.9 x 45.7 cm