

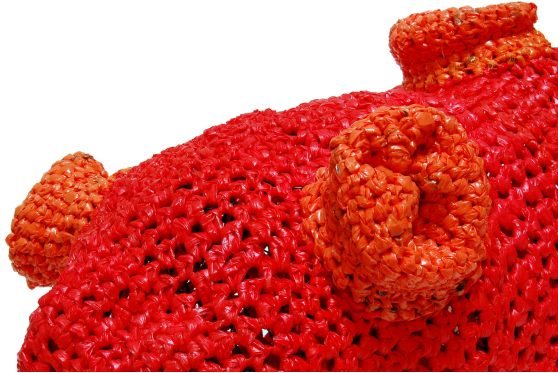
B O S T O N
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*Polycumber, plastic bags,
25" x 10" x 10", 2011*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2011

Michelle Lougee: *Material Nature*

October 5 – November 6, 2011

Boston Sculptors Gallery

486 Harrison Avenue

Artist Reception: October 7, 5 - 8pm

First Friday Reception: November 4, 5 - 8pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 12pm – 6pm

Boston, MA: In *Material Nature*, Michelle Lougee is showing tactile woven sea forms inspired by microscopic ocean creatures. Using a labor-intensive process, Lougee continues an exploration of material (crocheted plastic bags) producing enlargements of life supporting microscopic ocean organisms. The central piece of the exhibit is an enlargement of *dinoflagellata*, an essential food source for larger ocean animals. Lougee has also produced tapestry-like wall pieces using post-consumer plastic bags.

The work is inspired by the **Eastern Garbage Patch**, a large concentration of plastic and other debris that has been accumulated and trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre. As the plastic breaks down, particles become small enough for marine life to ingest, thus entering the food chain. In some areas, plastic pieces outnumber phytoplankton by a 6-1 margin.

Michelle Lougee is an environmental artist, sculptor and ceramicist. Her artwork has been shown in exhibits at many New England museums, including Chesterwood, Peabody Essex Museum, Fitchburg Art Museum, Danforth Museum and the Art Complex Museum. Lougee's work was also shown as part of the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. She holds a M.F.A. and a B.F.A. from Boston University and lives in Cambridge.

Michelle Lougee's work will be shown concurrently with Mary Sherman: *Waiting for Yves* **Memento Mori: from the Mechanical Universe Series**

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