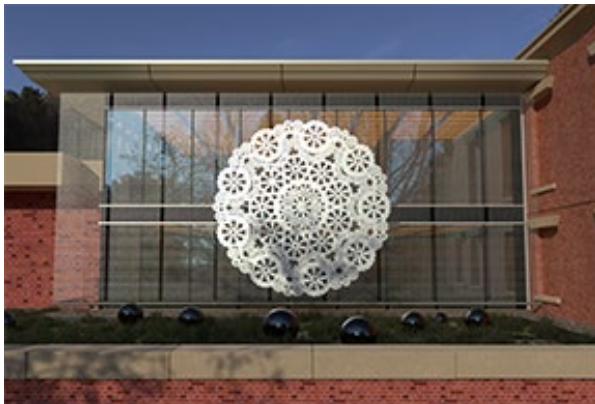




Two Site-Specific Works by Artist Jennifer Cecere to be Exhibited on the Campus of Phillips Academy this Spring and Summer

Installations Are Part of “Abbot & Andover at 50: Then, Now, Next,” a Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Merger of Abbot Academy and Phillips Academy



Jennifer Cecere, Digital rendering for *Women's Work*, 2024, laser cut aluminum



Jennifer Cecere, Digital rendering for *Abbot Doily Bench*, 2024, laser cut aluminum

Andover, MA (March 21, 2024) – The Addison Gallery of American Art announced today that it will present two large-scale, site-specific installations by Jennifer Cecere on the campus of Phillips Academy this spring and summer. The works have been created in conjunction with “Abbot & Andover at 50: Then, Now, Next,” a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Abbot Academy and Phillips Academy becoming a single institution.

“Abbot & Andover at 50” aims to recognize the legacy of Abbot Academy, one of the first educational institutions in New England founded for girls and women, and the ways it has impacted the Andover community. The goals of the program are to examine the complicated history associated with the merger; reveal and share the experiences of students, faculty, and alumni since 1973; celebrate the people, programs, and places that Abbot and Andover have brought together to create a more inclusive learning and living environment; and cultivate ongoing discussion and action around the changing dynamics related to gender and education.

ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART

Phillips Academy | 180 Main Street | Andover MA 01810-4161 | 978.749.4015 | www.addisongallery.org



Cecere, a member of the Abbot Academy Class of 1969, has spent much of her career creating works of art that activate public spaces while challenging traditional perspectives on “women’s work.” Long associated with the Pattern and Decoration movement, which challenged hierarchies by referencing marginalized artistic traditions like quilting, metalwork, and embroidery, Cecere is best known for bold pieces that embrace and reimagine the domestic doily. For centuries, these accessories protected furniture, added decorative touches, and showcased women’s needlework skills. In Cecere’s installations, free from the constraints of household spaces, the doilies take on a much larger role.

For “Abbot & Andover at 50,” Cecere has created works that recontextualize the humble lace ornament and dynamically link both campuses. *Abbot Doily Bench*, which takes the shape of an accordion-folded doily and is over nine feet long, five feet wide, and eight feet high, will be displayed on the grounds of the original Abbot campus, while *Women’s Work*, 20 feet in diameter, will hang on the façade of the Addison on the original Andover campus. Together, the two laser-cut aluminum pieces encourage reconsideration of the habitually overlooked contributions of women artists and, by extension, the often underappreciated yet lasting impact of Abbot Academy on the culture and traditions of Phillips Academy.

“An aluminum doily on the Addison’s façade becomes part of the building, reflecting light, time of day, the seasons and campus life,” said Cecere. “It will be interactive and dynamic, which is my aim. The Abbot doily bench will also reflect the sky, trees, buildings, and community. The two create a dialogue reinforcing our message to honor the past by recognizing the complicated history associated with the merger and to create a more inclusive Andover. I think this is an appropriate way to honor the two institutions and celebrate this important milestone.”

Cecere also will serve as the Addison’s Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence this spring. In this capacity, she will work with students from Phillips Academy and local public schools in subjects including painting, visual studies, English, art as activism, and gender studies. Additionally, Cecere will present a virtual talk on Wednesday, May 22, at 3:00 pm to discuss her body of work and the installations created for “Abbot & Andover at 50.” A video recording of the program will be available online about a week after the presentation. This free program is organized with Andover’s Memorial Hall Library; registration is required. Sign up at mhl.org/events. *Women’s Work* and *Abbot Doily Bench* will remain on view through July 31, 2024. Generous support for these installations has been provided by the Abbot Academy Fund, continuing Abbot’s tradition of boldness, innovation, and caring.



About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the Addison opened in 1931 and holds one of the most important American art collections in the country. Its collection includes more than 26,000 works by artists such as John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Jennifer Bartlet, Kara Walker, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Kerry James Marshall, and Mark Bradford, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Sally Mann, Dawoud Bey, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, and many others. The Addison Gallery, located in a stand-alone building on the campus of Phillips Academy—a residential school of grades 9–12 in Andover, Massachusetts—offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information on the Addison, visit addisongallery.org.

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