



the new children's museum™

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WHAMMOCK! COMING TO THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

*Renowned textile artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam
collaborates with Museum for June opening*

SAN DIEGO – April 29, 2019 – The New Children's Museum announced its newest art commission *Whammock!* by internationally renowned textile artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam. Unique in the world of children's museums for its practice of commissioning contemporary artists, The New Children's Museum will be the home of MacAdam's first large-scale work at a Museum in the United States.

A visually stimulating array of bright, hand-dyed nylon rope crocheted into a large-scale, three-dimensional sculpture resembling a large hammock, *Whammock!* will open to the public June 15. Spear-heading the project is the Museum's Deputy Museum Director Tomoko Kuta, who first experienced MacAdam's work at Hakone Open-Air Museum in Japan.

"I was so inspired by *Woods of Net* in Japan several years ago" said Kuta. "It's a thrill to be working with Toshiko and Charles MacAdam to create one of the first large-scale works at a Museum in the United States."

MacAdam is best known for her work with textile structures, which she was inspired to create after seeing children climbing in one of her three-dimensional textile sculptures. Her first work specifically for children was in 1971 and she has been making textile playspaces ever since. She hand-dyes and crochets thousands of feet of highly durable nylon in her Nova Scotia studio. Each installation's colors and patterns are unique, inspired by the spaces in which they will reside.

"My work is about the joy of bringing children together to play and having their movements and vibrations activate the art," said MacAdam, who will be on-site at the Museum from late May through early June installing the work.

Whammock! is an interactive, three-dimensional textile environment that resembles a giant hammock of colorful crocheted circles, open pockets and dangling pendulums. To be installed

on the Museum's Upper Level with a view of the two floors below, *Whammock!* will allow children (and adults) to climb, swing, crawl or simply choose to lay in the netting and relax.

Whammock! is made possible by presenting sponsors Laurie Mitchell and Brent Woods; and Lynn Gorguze and Hon. Scott Peters. Additional funding provided by the major sponsor National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Key Dates for Press

May 29 – June 6

Artist on-site at Museum.

Interviews and “hard hat” tours can be scheduled in advance.

June 6

Press preview

8:00 – 9:00am (coffee/continental breakfast)

About the Artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam

Contemporary textile artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam (b.1940, Japan) is internationally recognized for her breathtaking, large-scale climbable sculptures. A master of fiber arts, she harnesses crochet and knot-making techniques to transform vibrantly-dyed nylon rope into massive suspended environments that invite you to ascend from the ground. Her style of work resulted from an early career experience in which some children climbed into a hanging sculpture she was exhibiting in a gallery. Rather than be annoyed, she was transfixed by how the children activated her artwork. MacAdam's playscape structures are one-of-a-kind and made almost entirely by hand. Her work has been exhibited around the world in such prestigious institutions as the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, Japan; the Palais de Congrès in Paris, France; and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum in Tokyo, Japan.

About The New Children's Museum

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources. In 2018, the Museum celebrated its 35th year in San Diego and its 10th year as The New Children's Museum downtown. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

