WHAT'S ON PAGE 2

PLAY TIME

“Whammock!” at the New Children’s Museum reflects artist’s passion for building interactive pieces for kids. PAGE 25

SCREEN TO SPIRITS

Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh will be in San Diego to promote his signature spirits brand. PAGE 15

GRAB A BITE

5 places to try: from pizza to pasta, pastries to pad Thai — and biscuits! PAGE 14

A Walk in the Woods

by Lee Blessing

“brilliantly performed. A triumphant production and a must see show.” — DESERT LOCAL NEWS

“The production is riveting. It makes you listen, laugh and think — a theatrical triple-whammy.” — JAZZ 88

“A masterclass in acting.” — THE VILLAGE NEWS

thru JUNE 23 (858) 481-1055 NorthCoastRep.org
“WHAMMOCK!”

When: Opens Saturday
Where: New Children’s Museum, 200 W. Island Ave., downtown San Diego
Tickets: $10-$14
Phone: (619) 232-8792
Online: thinkplaycreate.org

For kids too young to traverse the net, doughnut-shaped foam rings with a crocheted cover will be available on the floor.

When Horiuichi MacAdam decided to make play structures, she started by studying the parks in Tokyo.

“What I saw was so depressing,” she said. “Kids were sitting in their high-rise apartments watching TV instead of playing.”

Her idea was to get kids socializing and moving in a space of their own, letting them decide how they want to play in it.

“The textile jiggles when you touch it. Then kids start screaming, then laughing, and that’s how they make friends,” she said. “Kids naturally play together and learn social skills. A place to meet and have fun, that kind of space is important.”

She has spent the last seven months working on the San Diego piece, crocheting at least five hours a day. At 78, she has arthritis and works with special splints on her fingers. She also wears gloves to protect her hands from the nylon.

Horiuchi MacAdam was born in 1940 in wartime Japan and lived for a time in Japanese-occupied Manchuria, where a nurse showed her how to crochet when she was 4. Her father was a doctor and her mother a pharmacist, and she thought she would follow her parents into medicine, but art was always a draw.

Eventually she enrolled at Tama Art University in Tokyo to study textiles and went on to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan for graduate work in weaving. After a short period working as a textile designer in New York, she returned to Japan, where she met her husband, a native of Nova Scotia, in 1982.

“Going from gallery to public, that satisfies me,” said Horiuichi MacAdam, whose first public play area was at Okinawa Memorial National Park in Japan. “I wanted to help people.”

After she made the human connection with her art, she said, the empty part in her heart was filled.

“The children’s smile is the reason I go on with the heavy work,” she said.

Schimitschek is a freelance writer.