

Jeff Sanders



Mars, 2007, Jacquard tapestry, 60 x 8 in.



Jupiter, 2007, Jacquard tapestry, 60 x 8 in.



Moon, 2007, Jacquard tapestry, 72 x 6 in.

Jeff Sanders is an Ojai, CA-based sculptor. For many years, Sanders worked behind the scenes at Gemini G.E.L., the legendary Los Angeles print and sculpture workshop, where he directed a unique department which fabricated three-dimensional multiples by artists including Claes Oldenburg, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg and Edward Kienholz. He has been involved with the Magnolia Tapestry Project from its inception: Sanders designed the hanging devices used to install John Nava's tapestry series for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. He recently began an innovative series of convex hybrids of fiber and sculpture which could be called the first three-dimensional tapestries.

Sanders's portraits of planets and moons from our solar system are sourced from photographs: the moon picture was taken in 1938,

while the others were found more recently on the NASA website. Sanders creates a custom convex base from steel, wood, and polyurethane foam, across which each circular tapestry is stretched. Since each image already contains shadows suggesting perspectival depth and volume, says Sanders, the convex base was developed as a means to amplify that three-dimensionality, to "turn [the image] into an object." Sanders began with Earth's moon and has since created tapestries depicting Mars, Jupiter, Venus, and two moons of Jupiter, Io and Callisto.

About the Magnolia Tapestry Project

The Magnolia Tapestry Project originated from a collaborative effort between John Nava and Donald Farnsworth to realize Nava's images as sophisticated woven works for a Los Angeles

cathedral commission. The translation and weaving procedures which the two developed, including the use of custom woven color palettes and a hot-rodged, double-headed Jacquard loom (courtesy of a partnership with a mill in Belgium), laid the foundation for a renewed inquiry into the fine art potential of tapestry.

In the same way that Tamarind and Gemini put the commercial lithographic technology of the 19th century into the hands of artists in the fifties and sixties, the Magnolia Tapestry Project is putting the electronic Jacquard loom to work in unexpected ways for contemporary artists. The Project has grown to include woven editions representative of several generations and numerous art movements: participating artists to date include Squeak Carnwath, Chuck Close, Bruce Conner, Rupert Garcia, Leon Golub, Ed Moses, Nancy Spero, William Wiley and others. ■