



PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2016

**3rd Street Gallery**  
45 N. 2nd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

T: 215.675.0993  
[3rdstreetgallery.com](http://3rdstreetgallery.com)  
Gallery Hours: Wed-Sun, 12-pm

## **CAROL WISKER HOSTS: LIFE, DEATH AND THE ABSURD**

**August 31 – October 2, 2016**

**First Friday: September 2, 5-9pm**

**Artist's Reception: September 11, 1-4pm**

**Artists Talk: September 17, 7-8pm**

**Performance: September 17, 8-9pm**

**Poetry Readings: September 21, 7-8:30pm**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Gallery celebrates its 38th year with a solo installation exhibition by Philadelphia artist, Carol Wisker who is participating in this year's Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Also showing in the Annex Gallery will be a small selection of paper works by papermaker Bobbie Adams. Free talks, live music and poetry readings will round out the month's events.



***Hosts: Life, Death and the Absurd***, Carol Wisker's sculptural installations, use fiber and textiles combined with furniture, mannequins and mundane objects to express her interests in contemporary social concerns, science and politics. Rendered with emotion and wit, the skillfully crafted multi-media installations memorialize human and environmental loss, explore bioscience, feminism and the psychological states of protection as well as poking fun at the visual arts world.

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The soft, seductive sculptural surfaces made from individual medallions of raw natural cotton have become Wisker's signature media over the past six years. She uses them to form thick, dense surfaces that serve as casings for a myriad of repetitive objects, such as spent bullets, metal mechanical fittings, silk cocoons or pieces of rubber tubing. Much like sculptor Lee Bontecou's repetitive use of canvas and metal structures or Chakaia Booker's recurrent use of rubber tires, Wisker has found a material that suits her expressive needs, allowing her to create sculpture that is massive but soft to the touch. Manufactured in India, the material is cut from bundled cotton fiber cording, an inexpensive textile typically used to line the interiors of domestic decorative objects. Utilizing the cotton cording in a new way, not as a hidden lining, but as an external covering, she exposes its soft texture. Using it as a "skin" for her carefully chosen objects, Wisker makes an analogy to the surface of the body or to surfaces in nature. The density of the material also absorbs sound, providing a somewhat peaceful oasis in our chaotic times.

The exhibition includes original recorded works by Philadelphia area sound artists Jacob Brunner and Jim Strong, adding subtle sonic layering to Wisker's visual arrangements.

On **Saturday, September 17 at 7pm** Ms. Wisker will speak about her work. At **8pm** the musical duo will offer a live performance at the gallery. In addition, on Wednesday, **September 21 at 7pm**, the Montco Poets Wordshop will offer exhibition-related and personal readings. Both offerings are free of charge.

**Carol Wisker MA, University of the Arts**, is a Philadelphia artist whose award winning, multi-media sculpture and installations are shown regionally. Her work has been included in museum exhibitions and is in corporate and private collections.

**Jacob Brunner, BA, Columbia University**, is a Philadelphia-based composer and poet whose sonic explorations encompass computer-synthesis, ambient time-stretching, and loop-based minimalism.

**Jim Strong BFA, University of the Arts**, is an experimental instrument builder and visual artist based in Narberth, PA and he is a member of the Philadelphia cooperative Vox Populi. His instruments are built intuitively utilizing crank mechanisms, strings, broken electronics and pressurized air.

**Montco Poets Wordshop** is a group of regional poets who have published their work and read through out the Delaware Valley. Many of the group are respected Poet Laureates.

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**3rd Street Gallery**, an artist-run fine arts gallery, opened its first space in 1978 on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bainbridge in South Philadelphia. It has shown numerous artists since its inception and currently hosts fifty member-artists. These multigenerational, award-winning artists hold advanced degrees in the arts and sciences, work in diverse traditional and contemporary media, and have their works included in collections at museums, as well as in corporate and private collections.

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† **Image:** Carol Wisker, *Surfacing (Detail)*, Fiber, found objects and light