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FAU and Danish Artist Isabel Berglund Invite Community to Free Knitting Workshops

BOCA RATON, Fla. (September 28, 2017) – The University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University, in collaboration with contemporary Danish textile artist Isabel Berglund, is inviting the public to take part in community “Knit Together” workshops from Monday, Oct. 16 through Wednesday, Oct. 25. The free workshops will result in several hundred textile pieces that the artist will combine with her own to create a huge sculpture. Workshops will be scheduled at a number of local community organizations and at FAU. There also will be “Stitch Together” workshops from Saturday, Oct. 21 through Wednesday, Nov. 1 at FAU’s Schmidt Center Gallery, which will be open to the public and FAU students every day except Sundays. Any interested community groups or individual participants can take part in this project by contacting the University Galleries at 561-297-2661 or by emailing Cynthia Stucki at cstucki2013@fau.edu.

In the “Knit Together” workshops, the artist will guide and assist participants with the creation of patterns made from the drawings of their homes or examples from previous workshops. Participants will hand-knit a simple design resembling the size and shape of their residence or a home they remember. These floorplans will be made at one-twentieth the size of their home. Knitting instructions will be provided and those who know how to knit will be encouraged to use their favorite stitch and preferred needle size to create their own personal handprint on the surface of the knitted or crocheted patch.

The “Stitch Together” workshops at FAU will be dedicated to finalizing the patches and stitching together of hundreds of floorplan patches to create the large-scale sculpture titled, “Home Mask Relations: A Social Art Project by Isabel Berglund.” This project will be on display in the Schmidt Center Gallery on FAU’s Boca Raton campus at 777 Glades Road from Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 through Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018. There will be a reception to unveil the project on Friday, Nov. 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibition and opening are free and open to the public.

Through the “Knitting Together” workshops, Berglund hopes to enlist the help of 600 or more participants ages 8 to 95. These workshops have occurred previously at Arizona State University (April 2017) and Indiana State University (late September through early October). The final sculpture will represent a cross-section of community participants from three distinct parts of the United States. The resulting sculpture will draw meaningful group and individual connections through craft to the many ways Americans have claimed and delineated domestic space in the United States. The project prompts important reflections and conversations for American audiences as we continue to address issues of rural decline, urban sprawl and the history of land appropriation.

Berglund’s sculptural installations have been exhibited internationally including, Collect 2017, London; Seoul Arts Center, Korea; Jean Lurcat & Tapestry Museum, France; Museo Poldi Pezzoli, Milan; and Museum Bellerive, Zurich. Berglund’s most recent project “Monument of Stitches” enlisted the help of more than 650 residents from six cities on the Danish Peninsula Jutland. Each city was represented by a local architectural element or monument constructed from hand-knitted triangles. The completed cityscape was exhibited at the Trapholt Museum of Modern Art, Denmark in 2016.

Workshop project materials will be provided by Lion Brand® Yarn Company, a fifth-generation, family-owned and operated business, and a beloved American brand since 1878. The company is devoted to inspiring and educating knitters and crocheters with yarns, patterns, how-to’s, and ideas that elevate their yarn crafting experience.

The “Home Mask Relations: A Social Art Project by Isabel Berglund” exhibition and programs have been made possible in part by the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and Council on the Arts; Cultural Council of Palm Beach County; Isadore and Kelly

Friedman University Galleries Fund; and R.A. Ritter Foundation. Museum education programs are made possible by Kaye Arts Integration Endowment and Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

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About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.