



LIFE & CULTURE

Converge 45 lineup showcases wide range of artists and venues

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Installation view of Amanda Ross-Ho's exhibition, "Ice Time," at ILY2. Photo by Mario Gallucci



Amanda Ross-Ho: “Ice Time”

Amanda Ross-Ho helped kick off the opening weekend of the biennial with a performance at the Lloyd Center Ice Rink. Ross-Ho grew up in Chicago, where she spent a lot of time on the ice as a competitive figure skater. Now based in Los Angeles, she clocked the rink when she was walked through the Lloyd Center in preparation for her solo show at ILY2, which has an ancillary space in the mall.

Ross-Ho channels the wonder and weirdness of competitive figure skating in new sculptural, installation and two-dimensional work. Absurdly large objects, such as a giant sequined pretzel (ice rink food!) and gold terry cloth soakers (for wet skate blades), mix with disciplined stacks of circles Ross-Ho hand cut using fabrics that would have been the stuff of her workout gear and costumes: fleece, vinyl, lycra, imitation calfskin, felt, terry cloth, industrial vinyl, Lycra illusion, gold Lycra, fishnet. The activity recreates the repetitive practice of skating serpentines (three connected circles) and circle eights (two connected circles), school figures that give the works their titles.

Ross-Ho brings a hyper focused specificity to this body of work. It’s an inventory of sorts, one that attaches the indelible memories of childhood to the materials and objects of a demanding sport. “All That Jazz (Knife Edge / Places),” lists Wet and Wild blush in Bed of Roses as a material. “Boot Covers” is a pair of high-top Air Force Ones wrapped in fishnet (specifically, Capezio professional fishnet seamless tights in toasted almond). Poignantly, “Boot Covers” appears next to “Nip and Tuck,” a nude bodysuit in a hanger bag whose materials are listed as “sharpie on Lycra illusion.”



The two-dimensional pieces are both very different from and very like the sculptural pieces. They're playful in their mix of materials and images – oversized novelty coins, images of top hats and daggers (blades, get it?) – and yet there's that beautiful precision in the lines incised into the self-healing mats, circles, of course.

There's a tribute to notorious Portland figure skater Tonya Harding in the show, "Untitled Still Life (Double Tonya)," one of the two-dimensional works. A braided rug coiled up behind one of the gallery's floating walls, "Rag Rug Vortex," recollects the rugs on the hardwood floors of Ross-Ho's childhood home that she used to practice her spins. The sequins affixed to the twisted pile were collected by Ross-Ho over time from her many costumes, which, like Tonya Harding's, were often homemade.

Where: ILY2, 925 N.W. Flanders St.

Hours: 11 a.m-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, and by appointment, through Oct. 28.

Admission: Free.

For further information: ily2online.com.