



Sophia Allison and Leanne Lee, *Passage* (detail), Coffee filters, thread, coffee, paper, and ink. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the Artists

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**SAN JOSE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART OPENS
NEW FAÇADE WINDOWS EXHIBITION**

**SOPHIA ALLISON AND LEANNE LEE: *PASSAGE*
*May 31, 2015 – October 31, 2015***

OPENING RECEPTION: Sunday, May 31, 1pm to 4pm

SAN JOSE, CA – On Sunday, May 31, the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art will open a new exhibition in the ongoing series of art featured in the ICA's façade windows, which face 560 South First Street in the SoFA district of downtown San Jose. Running through October 31, ***Sophia Allison and Leanne Lee: Passage*** is composed of used coffee filters that have been dried, ironed, color treated and stitched together into organic forms. The Los Angeles-based artists will arrange the forms into clusters to create an installation reminiscent of a floral environment. The exhibition will be celebrated at an **opening reception** with the artists on **Sunday, May 31, from 1pm to 4pm** at the ICA. The public is invited and admission is free.

ICA Curator Donna Napper stated, "I am delighted to activate our façade windows with a new exhibition approximately three times a year. We have previously featured bus-wrap vinyl, a neon piece, a site-specific cut paper installation, and hanging drawings. The innovative sculptural works by Sophia Allison and Leanne Lee continue the ICA's wide-ranging exploration of art mediums available for viewers to enjoy in the windows 24-7."

Sophia Allison is known for her paper and textile pieces often inspired by the landscape in her home state of North Carolina and the Blue Ridge Mountains. **Leanne Lee** creates highly-detailed paintings that produce multidimensional effects and are poised between painting and sculpture.

For *Passage*, the artists intermixed stained coffee filters and hand-drawn patterns on torn rice paper. In addition to the botanical imagery found in both artists' individual *oeuvre*, the piece references landscapes from Allison's work as well as Korean symbols and motifs common in Lee's work.

Passage was originally installed for the Department of Cultural Affairs at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The installation was on view at LAX from 2012 to 2013 as part of Los Angeles World Airport Art Program. Both artists live and work in Los Angeles.

Sophia Allison and Leanne Lee: *Passage* is generously supported in part by the ICA Director's Circle.

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