

Exhibition Wall Text

Su-Mei Tse: Floating Memories ▪ July 16 through October 18, 2009

Floating Memories

A sound installation by Artist-in-Residence Su-Mei Tse

The perception of space is a function of what we see as well as what we hear. Tailored to the Gardner's special exhibition room, *Floating Memories* merges sound, image and object into a single poetic form, encouraging viewers to reflect in the space on the passing of time, distant memory, absence and longing.

As a classically trained cellist the Luxembourg artist Su-Mei Tse is in her element when creating a visual dialogue with sound. In this exhibition the artist embeds a gold monochrome rug in an empty wooden frame, carved with the partially worn and faded pattern of the Italian silk damask that covers the walls in the Dutch Room (second floor) and pairs it with a personal flashback, an image from her childhood, of an endlessly revolving vinyl record, floating like a distant shimmering mirage. Rug, frame and image are suspended in a poetic limbo by the incessantly scratching turntable sound of a revolving LP.

An art installation such as this resonates within the Gardner collection particularly in the Dutch Room, where time has come to a complete standstill while a sense of absence, distant memory and longing fades in and out of every empty frame.

Su-Mei Tse (B. 1973) lives and works in Luxembourg and Berlin. In the spring of 2007 she participated in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Artist-in-Residence program, which for the past 17 years has encouraged artists to further their artistic practice by exploring and responding to the museum's collection and environment.

Su-Mei Tse realized *Floating Memories* in collaboration with Jean Lou Majerus.