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SEP/OCT 2008

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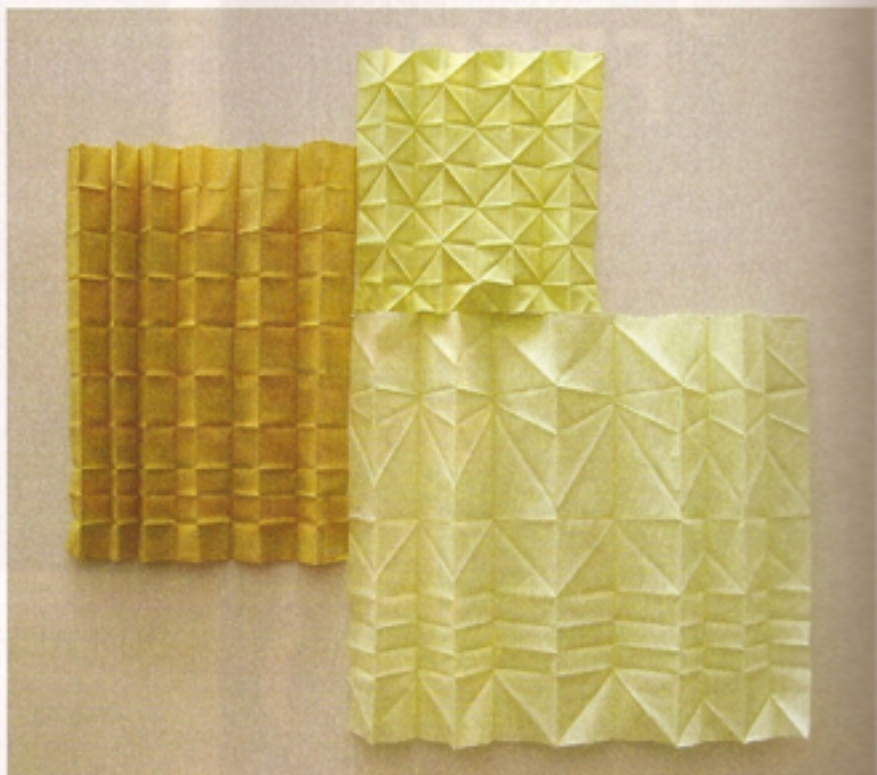
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## Mung Lar Lam: Methods of Change

**ALTHOUGH SHE'S EQUIPPED** with reclaimed cotton fabric, starch, and an iron, Mung Lar Lam doesn't belong in a laundry room. The San Francisco-based fabric artist uses these elements to explore the concepts of memory and transition while she raises questions about gender roles and contemporary art.

In a recent exhibit at the Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) in Los Angeles (May 11–August 10), Mung Lar Lam's work incorporates drawing, sculpture, and performance. Each piece undergoes constant change as she marks, irons, unfolds, and re-irons fabric into various patterns and shapes. The gallery walls at CAFAM are adorned with her work, ranging from hanging sheets and abstract fiber sculptures to angular drawings made with a carpenter level. Through a series of live "ironings," Lam varies the exhibit by selecting different pieces to unfold and remake.

Mung Lar Lam's methodical practice is more than an exercise in transformation. "The practice of domestic, labor-intensive, and gender-related tasks as an art medium catalyzes questions concerning the history of these activities and the positioning of women and labor in society," the Hong Kong native says. The ever-changing nature of her art seems to hint at answers to those questions, but Lam encourages visitors to add their own thoughts by experiencing her ironing performances firsthand. ●

*TOP LEFT: A 2005 performance; reclaimed cotton fabric, starch, pins. BOTTOM LEFT: Remix—Shades of Yellow, 2005; reclaimed cotton fabric, starch, pins. ABOVE: Piece Work no.3, 2005; reclaimed cotton fabric, starch, pins. Images courtesy of the artist.*

The museum's website is [www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org).