

DOSSIER

Joe Fyfe's Collection of Threads



Central to [Joe Fyfe](#)'s art practice is a preoccupation with how things come together through fabric and how this material is used and handled. This study becomes actualized in his sculptures, adhered in his 2-D work and captured in his photographs. By moving through these three mediums while focusing on the same subject, we become aware of Fyfe's vision and engagement with that material. Additionally, this interplay sets up a space for us to become engaged in our own thoughts about how we see things come together.

Fyfe's 2-D work combines various fabrics to create architectural spaces. Fabric and shapes are layered and ordered, and transparency breaks the perceived picture plane. By simply gluing the fabrics together, he skates away from traditional binding: the stitch. Combining this technique with the fabrics he gathers on worldwide trips, Fyfe gives agency to how material is used in disparate cultures. It's a subtle part of the project that's revealed through formal connections in the photographs he creates while traveling: fabric can wrap around a goat in one image or it can encompass a traditional painting frame in another—or it can swathe two pieces of wood.

There is breathe in showing how things are barely holding on. Time is evoked by reflecting upon the threads' eventual failure and how this impermanence will breed a new configuration or invention to keep things together. These things are present in the pieces themselves and in the culture that he's referencing.

Joe Fyfe: Wood/ Cloth/ Color is on view till April 23rd at [James Graham & Sons](#): 32 E. 67th Street (between Park and Madison.)

This entry was written by [Amanda Valdez](#), posted on April 14, 2011 at 12:25 pm, filed under [Art](#), [Exhibits](#) and tagged [James Graham & Sons](#), [Joe Fyfe](#).

Image: Joe Fyfe, *Tsar Thmei*, 2011, Gauze and cotton, 80 x 68 inches