

# LARA FAVARETTO: WORKS FROM RENNIE COLLECTION

**LARA FAVARETTO**

AUG. 13, 2019 - JAN. 12, 2020



## About the Artist and the Exhibition

The SCAD Museum of Art presents *Lara Favaretto: Works from Rennie Collection*, an exhibition specially adapted for the Pamela Elaine Poetter Gallery. Originally presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, the show features an electrifying selection of the artist's works.

Lara Favaretto connects to other 20th-century artists whose major concern centers on questioning the meaning of art. Through play and dark humor, her ever-changing work is spontaneous and ephemeral, unpredictable, and vulnerable.

The exhibition presents a series of iconic works by Favaretto made between 1998 and 2012, including *Coppie Semplici / Simple Couples*, a large-scale installation comprising a series of moving car-wash brushes that alternate between high-speed mechanical rotations and stagnation. Removed from their original context, the brushes spin aimlessly as they deteriorate over time. *Tutti giù per terra / We All Fall Down* is one installation of a number of works by Favaretto that follow a consistent form: sealed rooms within rooms containing industrial fans that

progressively move tons of confetti around the space. This work embraces dichotomies that speak to our human condition and our binary nature: perpetuity/impermanence, noise/silence, creation/destruction, growth/decay.

On occasion, one can experience the artist's enthusiasm to cherish the past, the forgotten, the disregarded — sometimes spiced with a dash of irony. She questions why certain objects have survived over others, probing their relation to the forgotten while exposing their inevitable destiny: wear, corrosion, erosion, breakage. The meaning is clear: Nothing will last forever, including people. Humans may wish to endure, yet they, too, are destined to disappear.

Organized by Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, *Lara Favaretto: Works from Rennie Collection* is curated by Abaseh Mirvali, executive director and chief curator. It is organized for the SCAD Museum of Art by Humberto Moro, curator of SCAD exhibitions.

## About SCAD and SCAD Museum of Art

Offering more degree programs and specializations than any other art and design university, SCAD is uniquely qualified to prepare talented students for creative professions. The SCAD Museum of Art, a resource for SCAD students and alumni during their academic careers and beyond, features emerging and established international artists through commissioned works and rotating exhibitions, and involves local communities with special initiatives of international scope.

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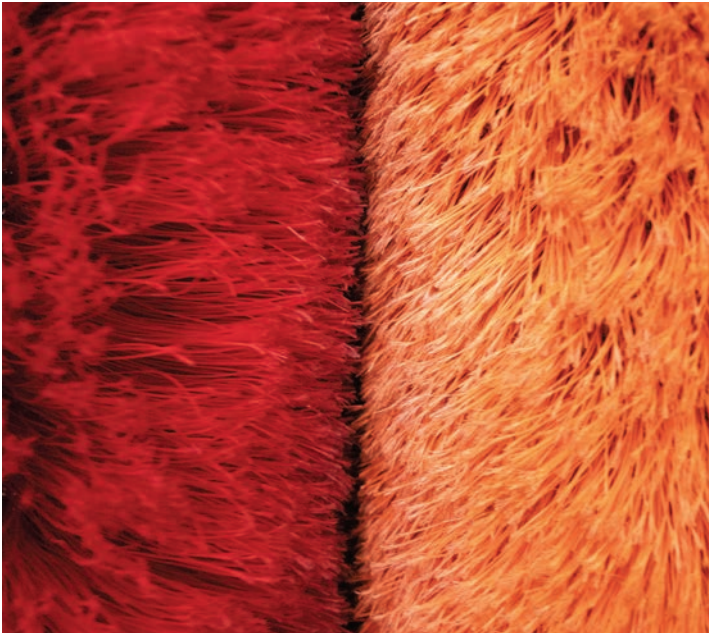
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“ I like it if a work lends itself to various interpretations.”<sup>1</sup>



Lara Favaretto, *Coppie Semplici / Simple Couples*, iron slabs, motors, electrical boxes, car wash brushes, and wires, 2009.



Lara Favaretto creates her artworks from unexpected materials and objects. In *Coppie Semplici / Simple Couples*, she transforms car wash brushes — standing them upright, grouping them into pairs, and giving each its own pattern of movement. These characteristics encourage viewers to imagine the unlikely forms as expressive, humanlike figures with individual personalities.

Relying on what you observe — patterns of movement, textures, sounds, color, and shape — describe the human qualities of one “couple,” including the kind of relationship they appear to have. For example, how do they seem to interact?

Lara Favaretto, detail, *Coppie Semplici / Simple Couples*, iron slabs, motors, electrical boxes, car wash brushes, and wires, 2009.

“Once a year I seal one up after having filled it with things. I lock it up and throw away the key.”<sup>2</sup>

Favaretto’s *Lost & Found* is one of a series of suitcases that were lost and later auctioned off by airlines and railways, or found at flea markets and landfills.

Although its lock might easily be broken, to open the suitcase would defeat the artist’s intent and strip the substance from the artwork.

Imagine what would be found and lost by breaking open the suitcase. Building on this idea, consider the substance or primary meaning of this artwork. What do you believe is the artist’s intent or purpose? For instance, what are some of the ideas Favaretto might have wanted to communicate to a viewer?

Lara Favaretto, *Lost & Found*, suitcase and mixed media, 1998.





Favaretto's *Tutti giù per terra / We All Fall Down*, a sealed room containing four fans and one ton of flying, drifting, colorful confetti, fascinates viewers. It's a delightful, celebratory scene, playing nonstop in a sealed room.

Like *Tutti giù per terra / We All Fall Down*, this work immediately engages viewers and then gradually reveals different levels of meaning. As you move beyond your first impressions, what other ideas and feelings emerge?



Lara Favaretto, detail, *Tutti giù per terra / We All Fall Down*, one ton of confetti joker lux, talcum powder, and four hermetic stage ventilators, 2004.

“...at first glance,  
it may appear carefree and lighthearted.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Favaretto, L., cited by Bordignon, E. (2016, July 12). Lara Favaretto. Retrieved from [klatmagazine.com/en/art-en/lara-favaretto-interview-back-to-the-future-38/33150](http://klatmagazine.com/en/art-en/lara-favaretto-interview-back-to-the-future-38/33150).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Fiske, C. (2012, June 06). Lara Favaretto. Retrieved from [artforum.com/interviews/lara-favaretto-discusses-her-exhibition-at-moma-ps1-31036](http://artforum.com/interviews/lara-favaretto-discusses-her-exhibition-at-moma-ps1-31036).

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Cover image: **Lara Favaretto**, *Tutti giù per terra / We All Fall Down*, 2004. Installation view at 907 State St., Santa Barbara, California, 2019. Courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara. Photo by Alex Blair.



601 Turner Blvd.  
Savannah, Georgia  
912.525.7191  
[scadmoa.org](http://scadmoa.org)

