

CULTURE MONSTER

latimes.com/culturemonster

ART REVIEW

Tradition and
tech in the weave

BY LEAH OLLMAN

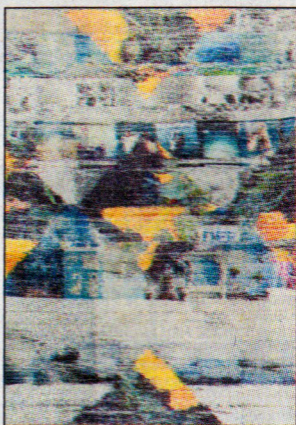
No unicorns in walled gardens in this show of tapestries.

San Francisco-based Margo Wolowiec draws her imagery from social media channels — Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr — and her inspiration from Navajo rugs and Bauhaus weavers. Her five large (81-by-57-inch) and two smaller weavings at Anat Ebgi are at once beautifully indeterminate and sensually satisfying.

Wolowiec works in a soft and lush palette of rose, jade, gold and persimmon, offset by charcoal and umber. She hand-dyes her thread at the loom as she weaves, a painterly process yielding painterly nuance. Movement within the fields recalls television-screen static in its blur and thrum.

Wolowiec is not blindly faithful to either her traditional or contemporary sources. Rhythms begin but are interrupted. Symmetry stays loose. Diamond patterns and stripes appear, but more as nervous fragments than resolved order. The digitally-based images, too, surface mostly as suggestion. Only occasionally are they legible — a posed nude here, a tattooed arm there.

However durable the surface in which they are embedded, the imagery feels transient, unstable. This disjunc-



MICHAEL UNDERWOOD Anat Ebgi
"YOU'LL BE Missed Too" by Margo Wolowiec.

Margo Wolowiec

Where: Anat Ebgi, 2660 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles

When: Through May 31. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Contact: (310) 838-2770, www.anatebgi.com

tion generates an appealing friction. So, too, does the collision of visual clutter and time-honored method. Wolowiec processes the ephemeral and expendable digital rush with slow, manual diligence. At every level, a wonderful unlikeliness prevails.

calendar@latimes.com