



PORTRAIT: JIM HEWBERY, OPPOSITE: KEVIN KENNEDY, TOP RIGHT: YVETTE KAISER SMITH

Yvette Kaiser Smith in her Chicago studio. Opposite: Sol LeWitt's *Wall Drawing 1112* and *Wall Drawing 1152*, seen here at an installation at MASS MoCA. The artist's work strikes a particular chord with Kaiser Smith.

When Yvette Kaiser Smith began creating her large abstract forms, she didn't do the math. "My husband is a numbers nerd," says the Czech-born, Chicago-based artist, "and when I asked him how to construct a random pattern, he pointed me to pi." Soon, she was creating oversize grids that added prime numbers, the Fibonacci sequence, pi and Pascal's triangle to her artistic equation. "My works are visual articulations of these digits," she explains. Kaiser Smith crochets her creations out of continuous strands of hand-dyed fiberglass, which she then brushes with resin to make the material hard and translucent. "I let gravity set the form and sand each piece by hand," she says. "My fingers look like hamburger afterward." The sculptural pieces draw their playful doily-like patterns from traditional Czech lace and their absurdly beautiful asymmetrical balance from arithmetic. "Math is the basis for all life," says Kaiser Smith. "Incorporating it into my work leads to new discoveries." kaisersmith.com; 773.395.2981

Panelák, part of a larger-scale piece on which Kaiser Smith is currently working.



COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY

YVETTE KAISER SMITH



Design Icons:

Sol LeWitt, Russian constructionist architect and Agnes Martin.

Keepsake:

A marble bust made by Herbert George, my mentor and sculpture professor at the University of Chicago.

On My Nightstand:

Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth* and *World Without End*.

Next Big Buy:

Plane tickets to Prague and Berlin.

Fantasy Career:

I'd be the same thing—a full-time artist—but I would have an assistant.

Current Obsession:

Taking photos of the weather through the windows of moving vehicles.

Up Next:

An exhibition at Berliner Liste 2010, October 7-10.

Philosophy:

Be true to yourself, know who you are and look for the truth.