



## Under the Surface

**THE RELICS OF AN ERA** are time capsules of its philosophy. The 1950s were filled with endless optimism and clarity built on artificiality. Using recycled imagery and materials, emerging artist Maggy Rozycki Hiltner evokes this mindset, bringing it to each piece she makes and applying it to modern issues. In *Space Party*, Hiltner uses her typical iconic Dick and Jane–style imagery to illustrate childhood innocence at a time of tragedy. Hiltner describes this piece as an autobiographical retelling of her reaction to the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger when she was in third grade. As with many of her works, *Space Party* takes on different meanings upon close inspection. As you examine the interaction between the children, the interplay of color, and the introduction of giant chicks, it becomes apparent that there is more to this scene than meets the eye. Hiltner uses visual metaphors and juxtapositions to reach the feelings behind the story. Take a close look yourself and see what you can discover. 🍷

*Space Party (with details), 2004; machine- and hand-stitched cotton and found textiles; 12" x 48". Photo: David Hiltner.*

*Space Party, along with other work by Hiltner, will be on display September 1–November 12 at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You can also see her work as part of Subversive Stitch, August 11–September 4 at the Reynolds Gallery on the University of the Pacific campus in Stockton, California.*

To see more work by Maggy Rozycki Hiltner, visit her website, [www.maggyrhiltner.com](http://www.maggyrhiltner.com).