

# YARN MARKET NEWS™

Knitting may seem an unlikely subtext for a play dealing with the serious issues of mental illness and suicide among Asian American women. But in conceiving her one-woman piece *Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, performance artist **Kristina Wong** found in yarn a medium to physically represent both a silent minority and a troubled mind.

"I was thinking how obsessed I have become about this craft that brings me so much comfort," says Wong. She came up with a set design that incorporates balls of yarn strewn on the stage and unfinished knitting hanging from the ceiling. The latter, she explains, "is a subtle way to create the presence of all these anonymous women, which is how I think a lot of people regard Asian women." Over the course of the multimedia production, Wong throws the yarn around until it's as tangled as the thoughts of a person contemplating suicide. She interacts with suspended



swatches, unraveling unfinished projects to mirror the unraveling of a life.

"I was going to build the set by myself," Wong says. "I bought a Bond Incredible Sweater Machine, but it was still taking forever. I thought, There must be women everywhere who have projects they're never going to finish." So Wong is asking knitters and

## Nest-ing Instincts

crocheters to send her their unfinished projects. Mail the pieces attached to the ball of yarn—as well as your name, hometown and reason for not finishing—to Kristina Wong, *Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, P.O. Box 251664, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Contributors will receive a set-construction credit in the program; the knitting itself may become part of an exhibition at a later date. Pieces received by March 15 will appear in the show's East Coast premiere, March 23–24, at the Painted Bride in Philadelphia. Visit [kristinawong.com](http://kristinawong.com) for more on both show and artist.