

ART REVIEW

At the deCordova, a look at screens as more than just personal devices

By **Cate McQuaid** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT NOVEMBER 02, 2017

LINCOLN — I'd be lost without my smartphone and computer, but sometimes I hate them. They connect me, they distract me, they harry me.

In "Screens: Virtual Material," Sarah Montross, associate curator at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, proposes that smartphones are today's devotional objects. The show is on view through March 18.

At first, I rankled at the idea. A contemplative life cannot fairly be likened to a life spent bent over your iPhone. But the line between spiritual pursuits and those of the imagination is porous, and we do treat our phones with devotion. We stroke them and attend to them with constancy. While prayer beads are a spiritual talisman and phones more wide-ranging, both compel sustained engagement with the intangible. Like spirituality, screens plug directly into interior life. Pervasive and captivating, they loom large in our consciousness. They shape us, not the other way around. It's time, then, to step back and apprehend their power.



ARTURO SANCHEZ

Marta Chilindron's "TV and Chair."