

THE GOSSIP WHEEL

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

September, 2017



Wednesday, September 27, 2017

*1:00 PM, Oronoco Community Center
Weavers' Study Group Meets at Noon*

After a short meeting at which we will elect officers for 2017-18, Laurice Johnson will present a program on Saori weaving. At its core, Saori is an art form where we express our true selves, or in other words: no rules, no restrictions. Laurice will be bringing her rigid heddle loom and a variety of yarns for those who want to try this new way to 'paint' a warp. Note: Dues should be paid at this meeting. At \$20, the dues are quite a bargain, entitling you to the Guild's many educational programs throughout the year, along with the newsletter and Facebook page, but, best of all, the camaraderie of fellow fiber artists at each and every meeting. Get new ideas and learn new techniques at the Zumbro River Fiber Arts Guild!

Treats: Laurice Jonnson and Carolyn Barsness.

October Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2017. Oronoco Community Center, 1:00 p.m.



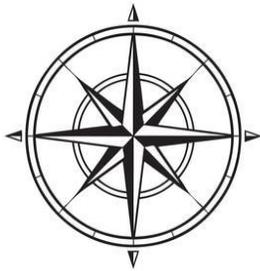
When Carolyn Barsness and her sister attended the Knitting and Stitching Show last October in London, England, where the renowned artists Jan Beane and Jean Littlejohn were featured, they learned new techniques, including the one pictured here, which Carolyn will be teaching at the October meeting. She stitched this mini-design from Rowandean Embroidery, and will help us all recreate it using beads and yarns. Carolyn and her sister came home brimming with ideas, and so Carolyn is now eager to share them with the Guild.

Bring: A small embroidery hoop, if you have one, along with small scissors and any other gear you like to have at hand for handwork.



Art Splash is Saturday, September 16—Don't Forget!
Visit your fellow Guild members and other artists in Zumbrota on Saturday, September 16, and support the arts! 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Zumbrota City Hall and Library, plus other locations. Get in the art-swim! For more information, contact Marit Lomen, maritlomen@yahoo.com.

NORTH STAR FARM TOUR



September 30 & October 1, 2017, 10am - 5pm--The North Star Farm Tour is a self-guided tour of Twin Cities regional fiber farms, connecting people to farmers who produce local, natural fibers. These are small, family farms sustainably raising a diverse variety of animals (and some plants!) for fiber/textile use.

Guild member Mette Christiansen will be at the Running Dog Ranch near Stockholm doing natural dye demonstrations, and she will also have naturally dyed wool yarn for sale. Fellow Guild member Nancy Ellison will be an exhibitor at one of the farms, too. For more information, contact Mette at Mette Biering Christiansen, [612-756-3426](tel:612-756-3426), mbchristiansen@outlook.com.

You are invited to explore the possibilities of locally-raised and processed fiber at the North Star Farm Tour. All are welcome! <http://www.northstarfarmtour.com/>

Upcoming Events

September 16: Art Splash, 10 AM to 4 PM, sponsored by the Zumbrota Area Arts Council. For more information, check out <http://zaac.org/art-splash>.

September 30 & October 1, 2017, 10am - 5pm: North Star Farm Tour. (See article for details.) <http://www.northstarfarmtour.com/>

October 2-8: Spinzilla! This is a spin-along event to try to spin as much yarn as you can. Check out <https://www.tnna.org/page/Spinzilla> for more information.

Treat List and Proposed Meeting Topics 2017

October 25—Embroidery with Carolyn Barsness; Treats, Sue Kahle and Sara Pruet

.....

ZUMBRO RIVER FIBER ARTS GUILD

Minutes August 23, 2017
Pot Luck Picnic
Lands Park, Zumbrota

The business meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$1269.18 in checking; \$2046.43 in savings.

OLD BUSINESS

Leslie Hall will be collecting the \$20 membership dues for the upcoming year at the September guild meeting.

Gayle Holter gave a chemo cap report. Some comments we received from recipients were, "Comfy," "Wears well," "Brightens my day," "Many thanks." Almost 6,000 caps have been donated. A suggestion was made to put a survey about the caps on our website and put the web address on a card with the cap. It was thought that we might get more feedback this way as opposed to filling out a card, attaching a stamp and mailing.

The meeting topic for September is Saori Weaving, presented by Laurice. Also next month is our annual election of officers during the business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Visitors were welcomed.

Lovely show-and-tell items were shared by the members present.

Upcoming events announced: Art Splash – September 16
Sewing & Quilting Expo – 2nd weekend in November at the Minneapolis Double Tree Inn
Nancy will be teaching a weaving class at Eagle Bluff in October.

Norrie and Leslie explained our dye stick and fabric project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris LaPlante, Secretary

Announcing Convergence[®] 2018

Save the date! Reno: July 6-12, 2018. Keynote Speaker: Jason Collingwood.

Sett In My Ways

A friend sent me an article from her University of Wisconsin—Madison alumni magazine a few weeks back because she knows of my interest in weaving. The UW article concerned a summer program called “Weaving Lab: Plain Cloth Productions”, which allowed members of the community to come in and weave on five floor looms at no cost. Each of the five looms in the lab focused on a different question about weaving. One asked the weaver to listen to a record while he or she wove and to explore how weaving relates to time and rhythm. Another loom encouraged the weaver to consider how the weaving patterns connect to math. Weavers were also asked to consider whether weaving provides meditational value. (I can give that one an affirmative without having visited the Lab.)

The part of the article that interested me most, however, was a section that described how the lab sponsors had encouraged weavers to continue exploring weaving at home on portable looms about the size of an iPhone which the Lab made using a laser cutter. The idea was to juxtapose technology with weaving. The pocket-sized looms were made with a stand so that people could display their fabric when they finished.

Finding a balance between the digital world and the non-digital world is a concern that plagues many of us, and these little phone looms bring the problem into sharp focus. Will handicrafts become lost arts as people become more and more concerned with their many digital devices? Can hand work ever compete in importance with the lofty range of digital possibilities? Does what we as fiber artists love to do really even matter? The iPhone-like weaving looms brought me to this

answer: the iPhone/cell phone, though it can do so many wonderful things for us, cannot weave the fabric that covers even this tiny loom. Only human hands can do that. And, of course, only human hands can make the iPhone perform its functions (at least until further advances make it possible to activate the phone just by thinking about it—which is probably not too far off, or maybe even already here on some platforms that tech-challenged people like me do not quite fathom). Yet somehow, I don’t see us ever being able to weave anything simply using mind-control, but maybe I don’t give brainpower the credit it deserves.



Humans, I believe, will always need to create art. They need to do it to make sense of life, just in the same way that the iPhone makes sense of communications needs. Though I’ve often explained to people that Jacquard looms are actually credited with having been the first form of the computer, because of the punched cards that controlled the weave pattern, I hadn’t really thought about warp and weft representing the “0” and “1” programming language of the computer, but the connection is there: Both systems use simple markers to create the complex fabric of information—and of fabric!

At this month's meeting, Laurice Johnson will demonstrate Saori weaving, another example of seemingly simple weaving that can be as complex as we want to make it by the infinite ways in which warp and weft, color and texture, can intersect. We will make art in our Oronoco meeting room laboratory. And if we run out of things to do, we can always wrap our phones with yarn and then needle weave on them. Who needs a phone case, eh? See you on the 27th.

--Coleen Johnston

More From HGA and Others on the Web

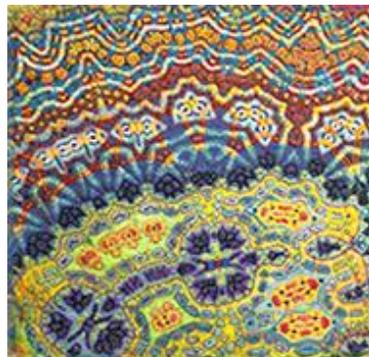
Leslie Hall has forwarded the following items from HGA and fiberaartnow.com. Thanks, Leslie!



The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., is pleased to announce the award winners from *Small Expressions* 2017, HGA's annual juried exhibit of small scale fiber art not exceeding fifteen inches in any direction. The exhibit was held at The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.



Beth Blankenship
Oiled Eider, First Place HGA Award



Sandra DeLozier
Shore
Second Place
Photography: Dave Terry



Al Canner
Mid-Century Modern Pictograph
Third Place
Photographer: Ken Sanville



Julie Blackstone
Knotty Girl VIII: The Krasner Fan
Honorable Mention
Photography: Artist

Want to Have Your Work Seen Elsewhere? Here Are Some Possibilities:

**Excellence in Fibers
San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles
Submission Date: October 1**

Which one is most likely to get your work shown in a respected venue; shared with decision-makers in fibers and fine craft; seen by jurors who have reach in fibers, fine craft AND the art world in general; win actual prize money; get your work on the short list for inclusion in Fiber Art Now magazine; and be added to an international publication with worldwide reach, subscribers, newsstand sales, and gallery sales?

Excellence in Fibers 2017
Deadline: October 1, 2017
Over \$2500 in prizes!
fiberartnowentry.net

Selected works will appear in the EIF 2017 catalog, be sent to 300+ curators and executive directors of fine craft-related museums and galleries, sent to our subscribers worldwide, appear on over 200 newsstands in the US, Canada and UK.
Special for this year: Full exhibition at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, October 19, 2018-January 13, 2019.

*Note: Works do NOT have to be available for the San Jose show to be selected for EIF!
Questions about how EIF works? Contact hello@fiberartnow.net

Entwined: Rope in Fiber Art & Mixed Media

Deadline: October 1, 2017

Fee: \$10

Submissions should include at least 30% rope.*

Juror: Noelle Foye

Executive Director, New Bedford Art Museum

Prize: Selected work will appear in 2018 winter issue of Fiber Art Now. Go to rwropeentry.com to enter!

*All entrants will receive a 20% discount on their rope purchase from www.rwrope.com.

Enter coupon code FIBERART2017 upon checkout. Purchase is not required for entry.

Need ideas? [Check out the R&W Rope Gallery](#) to see what people are making with rope!

Questions? hello@fiberartnow.net

Newsletter: Contact Coleen Johnston if you have news you would like to share in the newsletter.

coleenlou@gmail.com Website: <http://www.zumbroriverfiberartsguild.com/> Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656219207971338/>

Meeting Site and Time: Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of most months (a combined November/December meeting is held the first Wednesday in December, for example). All meetings are in the Oronoco Community Center, 115 2nd Street N.W, Oronoco, MN, 55960, lower level, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$20 per year. New members are always welcome!