

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
November 2009

A creative block is the wall we erect to ward off the anxiety we suppose we'll experience if we sit down to work. (Eric Maisel)

President's Message

Hello again,

Late fall is always such a wonderful time of year as we begin to settle in for the winter months, yet can still be surprised by a warm sunny day. Fall for me is a time of sensory overload. So many wonderful sights (colorful falling leaves and the bounty of the late harvest), sounds (those messy geese still send shivers down my spine as I hear them honking directions to each other aloft), tastes (yum - candy corn, cider, turkey), and smells (wood smoke, cooking aromas) and best of all the feel of hugs from family and friends that accompany crisp air on our cheeks.

Even as we prepare to cocoon in our studios and get cozy on our couches we still want our fiber art to make our hearts sing. As my friend Pam Godderis says: "One way to find ideas for that special touch or pizzaz is to look at artwork that you feel has that.... For each of us this will be different." It may be a quiet line, a bright color, or subject matter that strikes a chord deep inside.

Of course there are many spectacular venues for viewing art right here in greater Chicagoland. We are blessed in that regard. It is worth it to brave our way through traffic and construction to make our way to the many museums, galleries, and exhibit spaces right in our own backyard.

I hope you will make it a priority to spend time this year at the Fine Art of Fiber. Volunteer, meet friends there, attend a lecture, spend time studying the fiber art. I never fail to find several pieces on exhibit that just "wow" me. This year I would like to spend some time really trying to figure out what "that special touch or pizzaz" is that touches me and how I can translate that touch into my own work. Not copy, but take inspiration from it.

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CALENDAR

Tues. Nov. 3 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops, at Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture, David Johnson, The re-enchantment of everyday life

Thurs. Nov. 5 6:30 pm Fine Art of Fiber preview
Chicago Botanic Garden

Fri-Sun. Nov. 6-8, 10 am - 5 pm Fine Art of Fiber
Chicago Botanic Garden

Tues. Nov. 17 at 10 am Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Tues. Dec. 1, 11 am-3 pm Holiday Party at Gloria Dei.
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Thurs. December 10 at noon. Deadline for January newsletter.

The next newsletter will be the January issue. There is none for December. Also, no One Step Beyond in November or December.

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NSNG is very fortunate to count several nationally recognized, and in some cases internationally known, fiber artists in our midst. Whether we make art on commission or to give to family we all feel the need to create with our hands and hearts.

Happy Fall,
Mary Jo

Loose Ends and Gathered Threads is the newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild which meets in Northbrook, Illinois. It is published 8 times per year, monthly except for June, July, August and December. Copy deadlines for the upcoming issue will be included in the calendar of each newsletter.

Advertising rates:

1/8 page \$4 per issue or \$25 for 8 issues

1/4 page \$8 per issue or \$50 for 8 issues

1/2 page \$16 per issue or \$100 for 8 issues

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November 3, 2009

David Johnson

David began weaving in 1975, and focused on tapestry as a medium until the early 1990s. In 1993, He began to construct mixed media pieces with surface embellishment; in 2000, working with digital images printed on fabric and inkjet canvas became his interest.

He has also been making fiber-based jewelry in one form or another since 1993. His work has been widely exhibited and has been published in books, catalogs and magazines. It can be seen at the Illinois Artisan shops in Chicago, Springfield, and Rend Lake; in Chicago at the Intuit Gallery gift shop; and at Painted Light in Andersonville. There is also work at the Bohlin Gallery in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

David won the award for most innovative use of the medium at the Bead International 2008 at the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio.

Lecture: The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life

Workshops

Although the January and March workshops are full, you can still place your name on the waiting list by contacting me. For Barbara Schneider's March workshop, if there are enough people on the waiting list, it may be possible to schedule another one. Consider taking the February or April classes—they represent some different approaches to the needlearts. There is still space in both of these workshops.

If you already signed up for the May workshop, I will keep your name on the list unless you tell me otherwise. There is still limited space in this workshop with Anne Lullie. If you would like to sign up, let me know. At least half the fee is due now with the other half due by February 5, 2010. You can send me a check or give it to me at the November 3 NSNG meeting.

Barbara Fry, Workshop Chairman

January 5-7, 2010

Katie Pasquini Masopust

Fiber Artist, Katie Pasquini, has taught contemporary quilt design internationally. Her quilts and articles have been featured in many publications including *Fiber Arts*, *Quilting Arts*, *Quilters' Newsletter*, *American Quilters Society Magazine* and others. She has authored the following books: *Ghost Layers & Color Washes*, *Color and Composition for the Creative Quilter*, and her newest book, *Design Explorations for the Creative Quilter*.

Katie has won many awards throughout her career, but considers Best of Show at the Houston Quilt Festival in 1982 and 1986, and at the Pacific International Quilt Show in 1994, her best achievements. Her quilt, "Rio Hondo," was selected for inclusion in the 100 quilts of the 20th Century, and she was the recipient of the Silver Star award.

Lecture: The Art Quilt

Workshop: Abstract and Non Representational Quilt Design

This workshop will show you how to start with an original photograph or line drawing and create a departure from its reality.

We will do 6 + different exercises to explore the abstract and non-representational designs, these include, shape, line, blind painting, "cubing," zooming, abstract still life.

Composition, color schemes and a well thought out plan will be emphasized. A quilt design will be fully realized. Many different techniques will be discussed to help you create your quilt such as appliqué, piecing, fusing, collage, and painting and stamping on the surface

Would you Enjoy Entertaining a Speaker?

Just a reminder that our Hospitality Chair, Dorothy Fahey, is the person who coordinates the /teachers time and meals when they are with us. Please let Dorothy know in advance if you wish to take the speaker out for lunch, shopping, dinner, etc. Thank you for your enthusiasm and cooperation.

Annual Project

Join the fun again this year and participate in the Annual Project. Our theme this year is *pathways*. Only requirement is to use a threaded needle in the project and to have made it in the last 2 years. If it has been exhibited at various quilt shows, chances are we have seen it. Why not surprise us with a new piece of artwork!

We are all busily finishing our items for FAOF, but there is still time after that, as the Annual Project is not until April of 2010. You might want to try a new technique, color, size, medium, or whatever intrigues you. Or it might be just the perfect time to do that special piece that you have been pondering.

Hmmmmm. "*pathways*" What does that word conjure up in your mind?

Picture, Picture...

Who has the Picture?

If you want to have your picture in the monthly sign-up sheet and the Membership Picture Directory, send a photo in jpg format to jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com and put NSNG Picture in the subject line. Or, you can send a snap shot to my snail-mail address which is in the membership directory.

Joan Nasiatka

Holiday Pot Luck Party Tuesday, December 1st

Don't miss our annual Holiday Party Tuesday, December 1st Gloria Dei, from 11 am - 3:00 pm.

It is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share.

After lunch are the always entertaining grab bags. The first of these is a Chinese Auction of wrapped gifts (\$15 approximate value) - hopefully needlework related. We also do a white elephant exchange in the same manner. Will we see a return of some of last year's white elephants? Stay tuned.

This is a great party with wonderful food and guaranteed laughs. Please join your fellow Guild members; it's a great way to start off the holiday season.

Call for Entries:

Wearable Art/Un-wearable Fashion Juried. Deadline January 15, 2010, seeking original art that shatters conventional ideas about the merging of fashion and art. VisArts, Rockville, MD.

<http://www.visartscenter.org/>

E-mail Peg Koetsch, curator,
pkoetsch@visartscenter.org

Fiber: TwentyTen, Juried, Deadline January 26, 2010 for prospectus,

www.missourifiberartists.com/opportunities.htm

Quilt Visions 2010: No Boundaries. Full color catalog and awards. Deadline January 30, 2010

www.quiltvisions.org

Green: A Color and a Cause, Juried, deadline January 29, 2010. Exhibit to be held at The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. for information contact

<http://www.textilemuseum.org/>

Revised for May

New Speaker, Anne Lullie

Anne Lullie is an award winning quilt artist from Lake in the Hills, Illinois. Her work has been shown throughout the United States in juried shows. She was published in the American Quilter's Society 2004 Engagement calendar and has won many awards. She is also featured in the current (Oct-Nov 2009) issue of *Quilting Arts* magazine.

Anne is best known for her use of bold colors, abstract shapes, and whimsical hand-embroidered embellishment. Her technique of choice is raw-edge fusible appliqué, incorporating hand-dyed fabric and threads, and finished with machine quilting. For a more complete bio, see our website. Anne's work may be seen at: <http://www.annelullie.com/>

Workshop: Colorplay

This class is suitable for anyone who would like to become more comfortable with choosing and using lots of color(s) in their work. Learn to trust your own intuitive color sense, and discover new and exciting color combinations. Students will experiment with color chips and strips, placing them on colored background fabrics in a random and/ or planned order, learning about color interactions from this "play". The result will be a visually interesting quilt top, which may lead to further exploration of the effects and power of color(s) on their surrounding environment. No sewing machines are required for this class.

Class-specific kits of hand-dyed fabric will be available for purchase from the teacher. Students may add their own fabrics as desired, (hand-dyed/ pre-fused fabric recommended). The workshop further explores and applies color theory and design principles; students will experiment with fabric surface design (paint, stamping, etc.).

Service Update

Thanks for the wonderful participation in the October members swap. Due to my absence at the next two meetings we will not have a scheduled treasure hunt.

Gerry Macsai will be collecting bags and regular size pillow cases at the November meeting and December potluck and will deliver them to the YWCA in Evanston. Gale Wessel has generously offered to make all the bags but we still have a need for pillows for the 25 children's Christmas packages.

In 2010 I will be talking about making twin and double sized quilts for the adults in the YWCA program. Rhonda Newman has been cutting 8 1/2" and 4 1/2" squares that could make some adult hand-tied quilts. The children, however, receive blankets from Project Linus. If you are interested in helping with this service idea, we could have an old fashion quilting bee.

We are always looking for new needs. Advise me in the New Year of any suggestions you might know about in your communities.

Jeanette Page

FAOF Silent Auction

Don't forget bring your auction donation to the November meeting. Make something experimental or something you are already good at and which other people will want. The silent auction is one of the few ways the guild has to make money to bring you our fine programs. So look around. Maybe you have something almost finished which won't take long to complete. We would love to have it and will even accept donations at the show.

Joan Nasiatka

Vidcasts of our Members

Maggie Weiss recently did a videocast with Bonnie McCaffery where she walks us through screen printing with a thermofax machine. You can view it at:

<http://www.bonniemccaffery.com/vidcasts/039.html>

Bonnie's site also has an entertaining vidcast of **Robbi Eklow** giving us a glimpse of her well-organized studio and a demo of how she squares up her quilts.

<http://www.bonniemccaffery.com/vidcasts/036.html>

Bonnie's vidcasts are nicely done, and there are lots more at:

<http://www.bonniemccaffery.com/vidcasts/>

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