

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
October 2009

Spontaneity is the quality of being able to do something just because you feel like it at the moment, of trusting your instincts, of taking yourself by surprise and snatching from the clutches of your well-organized routine a bit of unscheduled pleasure. (Richard Iannelli)

President's Message

Hello, you creative stitchers,

If it seemed like there were a lot of people at our September meeting you are right. I am told over 85 people attended and that many of our guests joined at the meeting. Jeanne Beck gave a most inspired talk about her work. I was especially taken with her description of fiber art as a daily banquet. Not one to miss a meal, Jeanne's words make me want to create fiber art every day.

But where to start? My friend Pam Godderis says "Designing should not be hard, it just seems that way because we have an inner critic inside each of us with a *loud voice*. Find ways to make designing easy...and that softens the voice of the inner critic."

If you were at the September meeting you saw how Jeanne gathered inspiration from an eroding concrete wall. Design ideas are everywhere. If you were in Jeanne's class you learned how to take that inspiration and turn it into a work of fiber art.

As someone who has limited drawing skills I find I rely on my camera, my computer, and tracing paper to create original designs. I have even made a successful few pieces using these tools. Pam says that if you can write your name you can draw; however I find that I don't have to draw very much to create fiber art. And of course, success breeds success. Each time I succeed, I am able to turn down the voice of that inner critic a bit more. Who cares if I'm not very good at drawing as long as I can get from inspiration to the finished work? Not me. I work very hard at silencing that inner voice that says, "You can't draw."

I hope you will take these thoughts and give your creativity free reign. Take a class, enter and attend the Fine Art of Fiber, make a piece for the Annual Project. NSNG is a safe place to risk designing, whether you are a professional or a novice. Please share your creativity with your stitching friends.

Mary Jo

CALENDAR

Tues. October 6 at Gloria Dei, Pfingsten & Cherry in Northbrook

9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops

9:30 am Lecture, Laura Cater Woods, Fabrications: A True Story

After lunch: Mini workshop, Barbara Fry. beaded bracelet using the triple Ndebele stitch

Wed-Thurs. October 7-8 Workshop The Elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water

Tues. October 20 at 10 am Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Thurs. October 22 at noon. Deadline for November newsletter.

Tues. Oct. 22 One Step Beyond at the home of Avila Becker. See p. 5.

Future:

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

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

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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

Mary McManus, ed.

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October 6-8, 2009

Laura Cater Woods

Laura is a working studio artist with an extensive international exhibition record and numerous awards. Her mixed media and fiber art work is held in public, private and corporate collections. After completing an M.F.A. in Painting (Ohio University, 1990) she began to integrate her love of fabric and thread with her approach to drawing and painting. Her images explore the textures and rhythms of details from the landscape, often interwoven with eccentric grids.

In addition to Public Art Projects, Percent for Art Commissions, and gallery exhibitions, Laura teaches nationally for conferences, guilds, shops and private groups. Nominated for Professional Quilter's Teacher of the Year, 2004 and 2006, she is known as a nurturing and inspiring facilitator who offers highly personalized instruction. She is also a Creativity Coach (trained by Eric Maisel, Ph.D.) and works with private clients: writers, musicians and visual artists. In 1998-99 she was honored with a Montana Arts Council Fellowship in Visual Arts, Mixed Media.

Lecture: Fabrications – A True Story

Workshop: The Elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water

Working with sets of opposites - visual as well as conceptual - participants develop a composition using the elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water, as inspiration. Using a variety of approaches, students are encouraged to tap into their personal creative voice. The expressive designs evoked are then translated into your medium of choice. Instruction is highly personalized.

Workshops

Learn a new technique or refresh your skills in one of our great workshops! There are still spaces in the October one with Laura Cater Woods. The January and March workshops are full, but you can put your name on the waiting list—occasionally someone has to cancel. The February and April workshops have spaces also. For May we will have to wait to see who the replacement artist will be. Check out the supply lists on our website to help you decide whether one of these is for you. You will have a great time and get to know other guild members better.

Barbara Fry, Workshop Chairman

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 my 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

5 x 5 Project

Remember the 5 x 5 project we talked about all last year? We're sure you do, because quite a few of you brought squares to the September guild meeting. Thanks!

We'll collect them again at the October meeting, but can't accept any after that time. We need to get them connected and identified and ready to show off at the Fine Art of Fiber.

Barb Eich has supplied fabric squares to those who need a jump start on their project—a great idea. Thanks, Barb.

Below are the guidelines:

- Squares must be 5 inches by 5 inches
- Squares must be rigid/sturdy enough to be hung from the corners
- Squares cannot be heavy or extremely thick.
- Squares must be viewable from both sides
- Squares become guild property
- It must be possible to get a needle through the corners of the squares

Questions? Call San Geis, Pam Relitz or Jan Kent

Annual Project

Once again it is time to think about our Annual Project. The theme was announced at our September meeting. This year it is the word Pathways. Isn't that a great take-off point to get your creative juices flowing?

Last year we had a tremendous turnout for the Annual Project. Let's have even more this year. It is an opportunity for all in our guild to show their stuff. Regardless of your skill level, favorite medium, favorite color, etc. you can participate in this fun event. Or, why not try something totally new? All of you are qualified! The diversity of this guild is what makes it so interesting.

You might be wondering what the parameters are for this, what's in it for you, and just when it takes place. Here are the answers to those burning questions.

1. It will be displayed at our general meeting in April.
2. It should be a project that you have completed within the last 2 years.
3. You could win \$75 towards a workshop of your choice for the next year (2010-2011).
4. You should use a "threaded needle" somewhere in the project.

So think about what you want to do for this event. You have plenty of time. It is a way to see our members' art and also a great way to participate in the guild. I will be reminding you and, hopefully, motivating you at our meetings. Any questions, call 847-991-9674.

Thank you.
Valerie Rodelli

October Workshop Hostess Needed

As we head into the second meeting of the year we look forward to hosting another of our talented teachers: Laura Cater-Woods.

We are looking for a Workshop Hostess for Laura Cater-Woods: Inspiration of the Elements: Earth, Air, Fire & Water. This is a great way to get to know this talented and engaging instructor. Please contact Dorothy Fahey (847-438-6476) or (dafahey@mac.com) if you would be able to host Laura during her workshop.

Service Update

Thanks to your generous gifting of cotton fabric. The cot sheets have been made and delivered to the non-profit organization located in Palatine. It was over 300 and now we can move on to new needs.

In speaking to the administrators at the YWCA in Evanston I requested a Wish List. One wish was for 25 bags for women to use to hold their Christmas gifts. If anyone feels so inclined, it would be great to have regular sized items of shampoo, etc. to include in the bags. The other wish was for regular sized pillow cases for 25 children to hold their Christmas gifts, and it seems for them a Christmas fabric would be fun. It takes a yard to make one pillow case. I will be at the service table at the October Meeting and as I will be out of town in November and December I will be looking for volunteers to help me out.

Of course, we are still collecting cotton and fabric for bags, Project Linus is still looking forward to our 8" and 4 1/2" squares.

Items you collect on your travels are always welcome as our troops are always appreciating care boxes. Cards you might be getting from charities or stationery is very much sought after; they have free postage but supplies are not at the PX!

Our free exchange is a big hit and will continue throughout the year. Feel free to take magazines and return them the next month if you want. Anything left at the end of the meeting will find a perfect home by yours truly. Last month's treasures went via Joe, the machine repair man to Wheeling High School home ec teacher.

Would love to have any new ideas for service. Feel free to stop by the table or e-mail me at JeanettePage@sbcglobal.net.

With much thanks.
Jeanette Page

P.S. Look for the Blue Subaru HOP110 in the back parking lot if you want to deposit things in it for Service rather than drag it into the meeting.

Fine Art of Fiber

Chicago Botanic Garden

Preview night Thursday November 5, 2009 6:30-9pm

Friday - Sunday November 6-8 2009 10 am- 5pm

The Show is upon us! Do come and visit it, especially if you haven't anything in the Show. You will be amazed to see the talent. Support your Guild! Preferably volunteer as well! Remember, if you volunteer, you will get a pass for free parking for the entire run of the show (an \$80 value!!)

Currently, we don't have any volunteers for Saturday 12:15-2:45 and 2:30-5:00 and for Sunday 12:15-2:45 and 5:00 to the finish (take down). And we only have one person for Friday 12:15-2:45. If you haven't volunteered yet, I'll have sign up sheets at the October meeting or call me (Gale Wessel) at 847-634-1455 and tell me your preference.

Remember to:

If you are helping to hang the exhibit on Thursday, bring a staple gun, if you have one, and 3/8" to 1/2" staples.

Have fun!

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

For anyone who doesn't know:

Chicago Botanic Garden is located at 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022.

Take the Edens Expressway (I-94) to Route 41, exit Lake Cook Road and travel 1/4 mile east to the Garden.

One Step Beyond...

...will be October 27th at the home of Avila Becker, 2201 Pine St. Des Plaines, IL 60018. If you plan to attend, please call Avila at 847-296-1206 to let her know.

Raffle Project

Take a look at our raffle 2009 project, "A Trunk of Treasures", displayed at every NSNG meeting. This wonderful trunk will be filled with NSNG members' gifts. **Have you made your gift yet?** It's so much fun to see the beautiful things done by fellow guild members and watch as show attendees get excited and inspired. So... we're looking for your raffle gift, a little luxury, which will knock their socks off! **Have you made your gift yet?**

Here's what we're hoping you'll do for your guild:

First - purchase, or sell, the tickets. Maybe you want to write a check for \$20 and put your name on all the tickets. After all, wouldn't it be great if a member won the raffle and we got to keep these wonderful treasures in the guild family? Or if you win, you could give it as a gift to someone on your holiday list. The other option is to sell the tickets one by one, or by packets, to friends and family. Either way, please deliver your check and ticket stubs to Pam Relitz, as promptly as possible. And, there are plenty more tickets where those came from— just give Barbara Eich a call.

Second - take the tickets to sell to family gatherings, meetings, bowling leagues, wedding showers, your dentist, etc

Third - we hope that you will participate! The money we make on our FAOF raffle goes a long way towards paying for the great programs we have each month during the guild year. Let's get the whole guild involved in this effort. Thanks - from the NSNG Board, and the entire guild!

Have you made your gift yet?

Pam Relitz

Ye Olde Threaded Needle

We are a NeedleArts guild, by golly, and proud of it. That's why, when we have our annual project we insist, as printed in Standing Rule number 7, it "must include the use of a threaded needle."

The annual Fine Art of Fiber show is concerned with fiber. Entries must be projects made of fiber, and we don't worry about needles.

Other items for the show—silent auction pieces, things to include in the raffle trunk, 5 x 5's for the education area are also needle-exempt. That would fall under the don't-look-a-gift-horse-in-the-mouth rule.

So, needle away to your heart's content, but only worry about Ye Olde Threaded Needle when it comes to the annual project.

North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
Mary McManus, ed.
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Forest Park, IL 60130-2019

Pictures in the Brochure

Thank you to our talented members who so graciously allowed us to use pictures of their work in our new guild brochure. They are:

1st page Cover

upper left, Amber Waves of Green, **Mary Jo Bowers**
middle, Gold w/Rainbow Stripes Shawl, **Susan**

Donoho

Inside 1st page

Green Rope with Pink Flowers - **JoAnn Baumann**

Center Page

Top, Felted Flowers, **Denise Handwerker**

Middle, Hanna Banana, **Susan Fraerman**

Bottom, A Room with a View, **Shelly Brucar**

3rd page

Top, Green Tunic, **Carol Gildar**

Bottom, Riverbed III, Turtle Clan, **Tracy McCabe**

Stewart

The .pdf file of the brochure may be seen on our website.

First Class Mail