*SHIFT* Juror’s Statement

*by Christine Koppes*

Tapestry is an endlessly fascinating and impressive medium rich in history and technical mastery. The work submitted for *SHIFT* presents a diversity in techniques, materials, and styles that reflect the breadth of possibilities in weaving. Artists were asked to respond to the theme *SHIFT,* answering the questions: How do we shift in response to world events? How do we see the world shifting around us? What has shifted in our lives? How do we seek balance?

Artists are urgently responding to political, cultural, and social shifts, helping us navigate and understand this current moment. The tactility, softness, pliability, and complexity of fiber work condones slow and close looking – opening space for vulnerability between the viewer and artwork. Many of the pieces in this exhibition directly reflect on recent major events such as fires and environmental repercussions of global warming, the COVID-19 pandemic, political turmoil, and social uprising. The non-representational works capture the psychological spaces within these shifts, tapping into our collective conscious, shifts of mood, and altering perspectives.

Some pieces selected pivot away from what we might expect from traditional tapestry work, including sculpture and forms extending beyond the usual rectangle. Although all are connected through the process of woven fiber, the range of work celebrates the many perspectives and styles of the members of Tapestry Weavers West.

*Christine Koppes is the Curator at the ICA San Francisco opening in 2022 and formerly the Curator and Director of Public Programs at the ICA San Jose.*