

Tapestry Weavers West

January 2021 Newsletter

Vol. 35, No. 1

From Your Presidents

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Happy New Year TWW!

It was lovely to see so many of you on our computer screens as we gathered to hear fellow member Michael Rohde's wonderful presentation and view his gorgeous images. Martha Lightcap gives us a short recap of his talk on page 7 and members can watch the complete meeting by finding the link in the Members Only section of our website. Email Marcia if you need the password to get in.

Even though most of us are still ensconced at home, TWW is moving forward with lots of plans for this year and next. The *More IMPACT: Climate Change* show is scheduled for July 18–August 22, 2021 in San Jose, and our next show, *Shift*, is currently planned for 2022. This year, we'll have Zoom presentations by Dance Doyle in February and Mary Zicafoose in March and a Members' Show and Tell in May. We are busy planning the CNCH 2022 conference; please read the CNCH Happenings column on page 9 to learn how you can get involved. In Summer 2022, we're planning to once again offer workshops with Fiona Hutchison. Details about upcoming events are on pages 9 and 10 and a revised 2021 calendar is on page 17.

One silver lining of this past year has been having so many distance members at meetings and the opportunity to hear speakers from afar, such as the lecture on Archie Brennan's work by Dovecot curator Kate Grenyer and National Museums Scotland curator Lisa Mason (see Marcia's write-up on page 6 and a video recording is on our website). We're hoping to continue using technology to facilitate such engagement once we resume in-person meetings. If anyone has suggestions, we'd love to hear them!

And, speaking of new developments, we're recruiting some new Board members. Please read the job descriptions on pages 4-5 and consider volunteering! This is a time of transition for TWW, so here's your chance to help determine the direction of our growing organization.

We're wishing all of you the very best in 2021 and look forward to seeing you soon!

— Cynthia and Mary

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Minutes of the January 16, 2021 Meeting

Online via Zoom 10 am – 12:30 pm PST

Submitted by Rita Parks

Attendees:

Ilana Bar	Debbie Kogan
Madeline Brane	Sarah Leverett
Bobbi Chamberlain	Martha Lightcap
Jessie Christensen	Cate Markey
Maggie Clark	Cynthia McAfee
Myla Collier	Yonat Michaelov
Kate Colwell	Rebecca Mezoff
Deborah Corsini	Jan Moore
Cindy Dworzak	Rita Parks
Molly Elkind	Ellen Ramsey
Alex Friedman	Michael Rohde
Susan Gangsei	Minna Rothman
Madelaine Georgette	Ruth Ellen Saarinen
Marcia Ellis	Elizabeth Seaton
Tricia Goldberg	Care Standley
Janette Gross	Merna Strauch
Jenny Heard	Mary Sylvia
Jennie Henderson	Kathe Todd-Hooker
Stephanie Hoppe	Sue Weil
Laura Kamian McDermott	Ama and Juju Wertz
Patti Kirch	

Introduction

Cynthia gave a brief introduction with the agenda for the day, which included a presentation from Michael Rohde. The meeting was recorded on the Zoom platform and a link will be posted to the TWW website Members Only page.

More IMPACT: Climate Change Exhibition Update from Alex Friedman

Depending on SJMQT's reopening, the exhibition is still scheduled to open on July 18, 2021 and run through August 22, 2021. If the museum reopens in time, the Exhibitions Committee will be asking for volunteers in the spring to help with installation in July. Also depending on the reopening, a virtual walkthrough of the exhibition and/or an artist talk is planned for late August.

2022 Shift Exhibition from Kate Colwell

No new updates until potential venues reopen to confirm exhibition dates. The Exhibitions Committee has prepared exhibition information packets to send to galleries and museums once they reopen. Please continue to work on your weavings for this upcoming exhibition and refer to the October 2020 newsletter for details on the theme.

Upcoming TWW Meeting Programs from Alex Friedman and Martha Lightcap

The March 2021 TWW member meeting will be moved from the normal third Saturday to the second Saturday, March 13 to accommodate a talk by Mary Zicafoose about her work over the past five years.

The May 2021 TWW member meeting will also be rescheduled to the second Saturday, May 8, due to a conflict with a talk by Valerie Kirk at the Textile Art Council. The TWW meeting's program will be our annual Show and Tell event via Zoom. Members who would like to participate will be asked to submit images of their work to be compiled into a slide presentation and shared in the meeting. Participating members will have three to five minutes to discuss their work. Details on submitting images will be announced in the March newsletter.

The September 2021 TWW member meeting is still to be determined. Please send any meeting program suggestions to Martha Lightcap.

Other Upcoming Events from Deborah Corsini

Dance Doyle's solo show at the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica has been rescheduled to open on February 12 with limited, in-person attendance via reservation. A virtual presentation of her work is scheduled for February 20 at 10 am where she will discuss her exhibit and other current projects. An email with a Zoom link will be sent out soon and the presentation will also be recorded on our website for those who wish to view it at a later time.



Michael Rohde “What I Did When the Pandemic Started” Presentation

With a warm introduction from Tricia Goldberg, Michael shared his tapestry artwork, natural dye techniques, and inspirations for his work.

TWW Business Meeting from the Board and Marcia Ellis

Membership Report from Marcia Ellis

In 2020, membership started with 73 members and ended with 83. We already have two new members for 2021, Patty Dolan from San Jose and Cindy Dworzak from New Mexico. Roster updates will now be sent at the beginning of each month. If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Membership fees are \$35 and can be paid via the Paypal link on the TWW website or send a check to:

TWW Treasurer
3109 Shore Ave
Everett, WA 98203

Treasurer's Report from Jenny Heard

The status of this year's current balance was presented along with a brief discussion comparing it to the balance for last year at this time.

CNCH 2022 from Madeline Brane and Cynthia McAfee

The conference is officially scheduled for Thursday, May 19–Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel. Our CNCH guild area is leading the planning of this conference and it is our first year participating in the planning with CNCH. A field trip to view the venue location is planned for February.

TWW has signed up for two groups to plan/organize: the gallery areas and the demonstration events. The gallery areas volunteer team currently has four members: Alex Friedman, Deborah Corsini, Bobbi Chamberlain, and Jan Moore. The demonstration events team has three members: Kathe Todd-Hooker, Jenny Heard, and Ilana Bar-David. We would like to have one or two

more volunteers for the demonstration events team. Volunteers can participate virtually and will be provided with the names of people who participated in demonstrations from previous conferences. The time commitment will be three to four months with group meetings every three to four weeks, as well as some work in connecting with the demo artists.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the demonstrations planning team or joining the trip to view the venue, please email Cynthia McAfee cajmmcafee@gmail.com or Madeline Brane mbrane@sbcglobal.net.

Open Board Positions

At the end of 2021, a few Board members will be retiring from their roles. The positions of TWW President, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor will need new volunteers in place before the end of the year to start in January 2022. The initial commitment is one year but can continue on to multiple years. Please see the open roles' job descriptions included in this newsletter on the following page.

Video Recording of the January Meeting

The video recording of this meeting, which includes Michael Rohde's presentation, is available on the TWW website. To access the video, follow these instructions:

1. From the TWW homepage in your web browser, click on Members Only, then Resources (email Marcia Ellis at mellis@sonic.net if you need the password for the website).
2. At the end of the list of Resources is Michael Rohde's presentation.
3. Click on the YouTube link, which will take you to the video recording of the entire meeting.

Job Descriptions for Open TWW Board Positions

The following three TWW Board positions will be vacant at the end of the 2021 calendar year. We are beginning the process now of recruiting new volunteers for each of these positions. The ideal timing for filling each of these positions would be by our September 2021 meeting. That allows for the new Board members to be approved by the membership and some time for transition from the current Board members to the new ones. New Board members would start their one-year terms on January 1, 2022. Any of these positions can be shared by two members. Board members can – and often do – serve for multiple one-year terms, as desired.

If you are interested or curious about any of these positions, please talk to the current Board members. If you'd like to know more about what it is like to work on the Board in general, also feel free to reach out to any of the other current Board members (Secretary Rita Parks, Treasurer Jenny Heard, CNCH Liaison Madeline Brane).

President: Currently Cynthia McAfee and Mary Sylvia

From the By-laws: “The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization, appoint all committee chairs with ratification of the Board, be an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall exercise a general supervision of the affairs of the organization.”

Proposed Mission Statement:

Guide the organization's activities to be in line with our stated vision, encourage member participation in running the organization, and safeguard the organization's assets and reputation.

This involves:

- Taking lead responsibility for the organization and serving as contact with other organizations;
- Holding regular Board meetings;
- Planning the business portion of the quarterly member meetings and presiding at each quarterly meeting;
- Ensuring that other leaders and groups within TWW have the resources needed to complete their missions and that their work is proceeding on budget and on schedule. These include:
 - Other Board members; volunteer position holders (Membership and Roster Chair, Website Manager, Historian); other committees (exhibitions, CNCH conferences, workshops, special events, etc.)
- Mentoring a new President and continuing to serve as a voting member of the Board for one year upon completion of one's final term.

The President receives an annual stipend of \$150.

Vice President: Currently Martha Lightcap

From the By-laws: “The Vice President shall organize four semi-quarterly programs at someone's home, studio, or public place, and coordinate a host/hostess for meetings; in addition, shall consider all-day or weekend "field trips" as appropriate; shall assist the President and act in the absence of the President.”

Proposed Mission Statement:

Encourage member participation via interesting programs and speakers, attention to long-distance members, enthusiastic invitations to meetings with appropriate follow-ups, and smooth logistics at meetings.

Duties include soliciting input/ideas for possible programs from Board and General membership. Possible programs include member or non-member speaker/presentations, museum shows or studio visits, and day-long or weekend field trips.

Organize a program for four quarterly member meetings to take place at someone's home, studio, a public place, or a speaker/presentation via Zoom including:

- Arrange/coordinate all logistics for each meeting;
- Arrange for a host/hostess for in-person meetings;
- Arrange for someone to introduce the meeting speaker, if appropriate;
- Arrange for someone to write article for the newsletter about the speaker/event/presentation, including pictures when possible;
- Draft meeting notice including RSVP info. Track RSVPs and coordinate with host;
- Organize/coordinate carpooling to meetings/events as needed;
- Coordinate honoraria for speakers and hosts;
- Assist President(s) as needed with other duties.

Newsletter Editor: Currently Patricia Jordan

From the By-laws: "The Newsletter Editor shall gather information, oversee publication, and distribute the TWW newsletter."

Proposed Mission Statement:

Produce a quarterly newsletter that reports on all recent and forthcoming TWW events and business, highlights TWW members' weaving-related activities, which is produced in an attractive, professional format.

The TWW Newsletter editor is responsible for all aspects of:

- Newsletter development;
- Article acquisition;
- Page layout;
- Final distribution to the membership.
- In addition, the Editor is part of a team, which accomplishes the following:
 - Set guidelines and expectations for authors; establish and copyedit grammar and punctuation style; assist authors with article development when needed; write captions and title/headlines.

Other activities include, but are not limited to:

- Work closely with the President to determine the themes or subjects to be published in each issue;
- Solicit materials to be published by querying members throughout the year;
- Set and enforce deadlines for submissions and distribution,
- Design the computer layout of the newsletter's text, images, and graphics.

The newsletter is distributed and archived as a PDF document. The Editor needs to have access to and ability to use a digital layout/publishing platform such as Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign and Photoshop), Microsoft Publisher, or another such publication software.

The Editor receives a stipend of \$150 per issue.

Curators Present "Assembling the Archie Brennan Exhibition"

by Marcia Ellis

On October 10, 2020, TWW members enjoyed an exclusive Zoom presentation by Kate Grenyer, Dovecot Studios, and Lisa Mason, National Museums Scotland. They talked about their three-year project of assembling the first major exhibit of Archie Brennan's work.

I thought it was fascinating.

The presentation was recorded and is available for viewing in the Resources section of the Members page on our TWW website. It's a good way to spend an hour during the pandemic restrictions.

The exhibit "Archie Brennan: Tapestry Goes Pop!" will be on view in Edinburgh, Scotland from March 26, 2021 until June 26, 2021.

Unfortunately, it appears that people from the United States will not be allowed to travel there at that time. However, all is not bleak! Last October, Kate said she would be willing to give us a virtual tour of the exhibit. I will contact her when we are closer to the opening date to see what we can arrange.

Here is what Dovecot has to say about the exhibit:

Pop artist, weaver, and former Mr. Scotland, Archie Brennan changed the course of modern weaving and is considered one of the greatest unrecognised pop artists of the twentieth century. Why unrecognised? Most likely because his medium of choice was tapestry.

"Archie Brennan: Tapestry Goes Pop!" tells the story of Edinburgh native Archie Brennan (1931-2019) in the first major exhibition of his work. Bringing together over 80 tapestries as well as archive material, this is a chance to delve into the world of a master of modern tapestry.

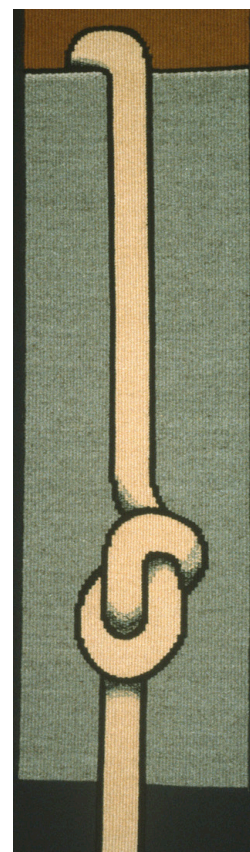
Sharp, witty, and immensely talented, Brennan began his 60-year weaving career at Dovecot and was an innovator and iconoclast who inspired weavers all over the world from Papua New Guinea to Australia. A charismatic character, he dedicated his life to teaching and his influence on weaving can still be felt to this day. Brennan's contribution to modern art has not been recognised, until now.



Archie Brennan, *Shadow*, 18 x 18 in, 1979, photo: Archie Brennan.



Archie Brennan, *At a Window*, 18, Portiere, 66 x 22 in, 2001, photo: Archie Brennan.



Archie Brennan, *Knot II*, 33 x 9.5 in, 1996, photo: Archie Brennan.

"What I Did When the Pandemic Started"

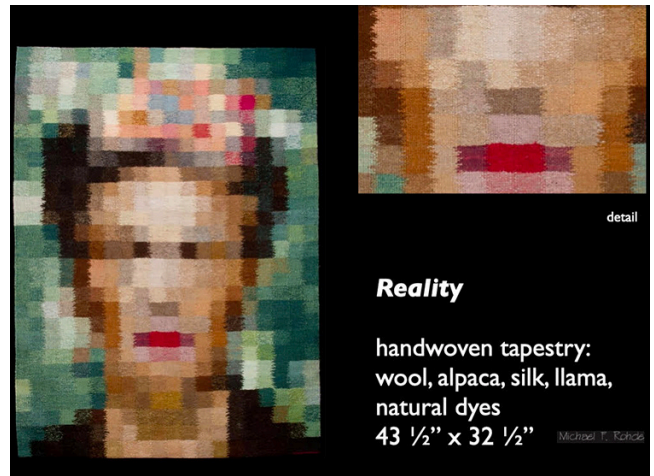
Presentation by Michael F. Rohde, artist, weaver, and colorist

On Saturday, January 21, 2021, TWW members gathered to hear accomplished artist and weaver Michael F. Rohde join our Zoom platform to present his current work and fill us in on how he has kept busy during the pandemic.

Michael began his textile career in the 1970s as a Navajo rug weaver, weaving row by row, selvage to selvage, on a large floor loom. When he became challenged by the limitations of selvage-to-selvage weaving, he began developing his stunning block weave and inlay designs using a discontinuous weft method.

He started weaving abstract geometric images many years ago and continues to explore the possibilities of the relationship between subliminal texture and the interaction of color and light. He told us his goal is to bring the audience into his work through the use of these color combinations along with a variety of symbols that evoke varied reactions and emotions from his viewers.

Michael accomplishes his pixelated faces designs by bringing an image into Photoshop, zooming in on it and manipulating pixel size and color relationships



until he has what he wants. Woven block sizes for each pixel might be 5 x 5 inches, or somewhat larger or smaller, depending on the design and final weaving size. A current series of tapestries presents pixelated faces, touching on reality and abstraction at the same time. His weaving "Reality" shown above is an example of his pixelated faces designs.

He is an experienced dyer who has been dyeing his own yarn for more than 20 years. He currently uses only natural dyes such as cochineal, weld, fustic, osage orange, and madder to achieve his range of colors. He uses his dye baths two times for darker and lighter colors.



Michael's 96-inch Cranbrook loom, which he has used for more than 30 years.



Why have only one red, when with second over-dye you can have 50-100 reds?

Michael's current collaboration and upcoming show with Oaxacan weaver and California resident Porfirio Gutierrez has kept him busy during the pandemic. It began with a pre-pandemic trip to Oaxaca and Teotitlan del Valle with Porfirio where he immersed himself in the sights and sounds of this vibrant region, which is full of talented weavers and dyers. The Museum of Ventura County plans to show Michael and Porfirio's collaborative work sometime in the future. So far he has 12 pieces woven for this exhibit. Michael will let us know when they have firmed up a date in Ventura for that exhibition.

— Martha Lightcap



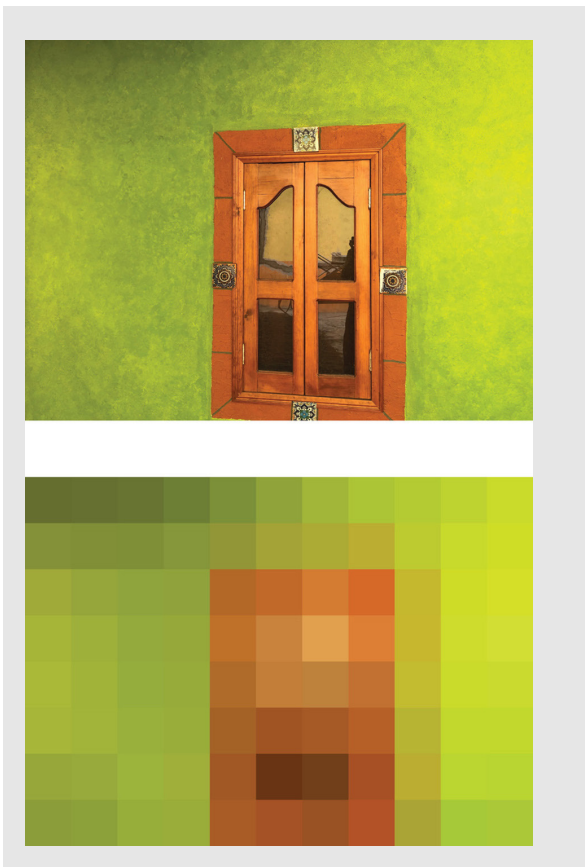
The 12 jars are ready for heating, to dye the yarns.



After dyeing, rinsing, and allowing to dry, the color differences are subtle, but obvious in the weaving.



After dyeing the yarn on the left, there is still some color in the bath, so a second set of yarn can be dyed to give the lighter tints on the right. Alternatively, one could use less dye or more yarn to get lighter tints.



Inspiration photo (upper left), cartoon (lower left), and weaving-in-progress photos submitted by Michael F. Rohde.

CNCH Happenings

CNCH 2021 Cancellation Update

CNCH 2021, which had been scheduled for July 2021 in San Luis Obispo, has been cancelled. The cancellation will be officially announced at the CNCH Liaison meeting in February.

CNCH 2022 Conference

The conference will be held May 19-22, 2022 at the San Mateo Marriott. TWW is part of CNCH Area 3, the area responsible for this conference. TWW has assumed responsibility for the Galleries and Demonstrations portion of the conference.

We currently have a Galleries Planning Team including Alex Friedman, Deborah Corsini, Jan Moore, and Bobbi Chamberlain, and a Demonstrations Planning Team including Kathe Todd-Hooker, Jenny Heard, and Ilana Bar-David. Cynthia McAfee and Madeline Brane provide overall leadership for TWW's conference work and support for these teams.

These teams are responsible for:

- Determining how many galleries and demonstrations we will have at the conference;
- Deciding on the themes for the galleries and demonstrations;
- Drafting the process for submitting items to galleries;
- Identifying and getting commitments from demonstration candidates.

We are looking for one or two additional people for the Demonstrations Planning Team. Please reach out to Madeline Brane (mbrane@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

Editorial Note:

As a reminder, the TWW/CNCH relationship has the following arrangement:

CNCH provides TWW with valuable legal and financial protections and every five years TWW takes a lead role in the planning and execution of the annual CNCH conference.

CNCH Area 3, SF/East Bay, to which TWW belongs, is responsible for the 2022 Conference. TWW members are expected to take key volunteer planning roles and most members are expected to fill volunteer shifts before and/or during this conference.

Special Zoom Program: February 20, 2021 10 am PST

Dance Doyle will give a talk about her recent work and exhibition at the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica, California. Many of you will recall that this was the exhibit and program that was canceled last year because of the pandemic. Her exhibit reopens at the Sanchez Art Center on February 12 and will run through March 21, 2021. She will speak about her new work and share some of her experiences as an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Design in New York City as well as some of her future plans.

The Sanchez Art Center is open for appointments. Check out the website for more information: <http://www.sanchezartcenter.org/>

May 2021 Meeting Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:45 am – 12:30 pm PST

Quarterly Business Meeting
and Member Show and Tell

This year's Show and Tell will be in PowerPoint format to display members' work-in-progress or recently completed work. Members may submit images of the work they would like to share for discussion at the meeting.

Details of the logistics of the meeting and the mechanics of submitting images will be provided at the March 2021 meeting and in the next newsletter

Mary Zicafoose to Present at Our March 13, 2021 Meeting

The incomparable Mary Zicafoose will present at our TWW meeting via Zoom on March 13, 2021. Her topic will be “Getting Down to Business: Recent Tapestry Installations and Public Commissions.”

She will discuss her recent years of making work for public spaces, getting gigs, juggling deadlines and installations, and the challenge of making really large-scale pieces. She is a storyteller at heart, and I know you will enjoy her presentation. Save the date!

Mary is known for her unique ikat tapestry weavings. Initially, she studied photography and ceramics but a chance encounter with a loom after her formal education completely changed her direction. For the last 30 years she has developed and refined her approach to making ikat weaving and has recently produced a book, *Ikat the Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist-dyed Cloth*, Interweave, 2020.

Mary Zicafoose's tapestries and rugs span the globe from large-scale public installations to private collections including those of the United States embassies. Her work was once described on the Kaneko website as follows:

Her colorful woven pieces blend cultural icons and symbols with a contemporary hand, creating powerful visual statements. The work and processes are a reflection of the artist's superb craftsmanship and her ability to speak articulately through the use of color.

For more information, including her installations and short videos, please look at her website: <https://maryzicafoose.com>.

— Alex Friedman



Mary Zicafoose at work in one of her studios.



Mary Zicafoose, one portion of the triptych *Healing Tapestry*, 10 x 12 feet, weft-faced ikat, wrapped dyed and woven wool and silk/bamboo on linen warp. Commissioned by UNMC Healing Arts Committee. On display in the lobby of the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Omaha.

Weft Review:

Venne Colcoton Unikat, Organic Cotton 8/2

by Laura Kamian McDermott

Since I stopped hand-dyeing my own wool due to allergy concerns, I have been on the hunt to find a weft yarn that is consistently available, comes in a color palette that speaks to me, is within my budget, and is eco-friendly. This search recently led me to Venne Organic, an 8/2 cotton from the Netherlands that is certified GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard). I purchased it through Lone Star Loom Room, using my American Tapestry Alliance 10 percent member discount (thank you to Lone Star Loom Room and ATA!). Lone Star Loom Room stocks 50 colors of the 100 gram/740 yard size, and the color card mentions that they can special order any of the 113 colors. There is also a one-pound cone size available by special order. Prices as of this writing are \$12 for 100 grams, \$96 for one pound, before any discount. It is clear from the many finished project pictures online that this yarn is great for hand towels and other household items. But is it a good weft for tapestry?

I originally ordered two colors to test and was disappointed at first to see the completely matte quality of the yarn. When it is wound on the tube, there is almost no sheen. I nearly tucked it away in a bin without testing. But my husband spoke up and said, “Maybe what it lacks in sheen it will make up for in texture.” What a smart and supportive tapestry husband! I’m so lucky. He was referring to the yarn’s very slight slubbiness. I wove a tiny sampler on my Hokett and noticed that I loved the feel of it in my hand. It was nice and warm and soft, quite a contrast to the cool crispiness of mercerized cotton. I had enough information to keep going.

Next I planned a small piece in my “Jagged Skyline of Car Keys” series and ordered some more colors. The color palette is saturated and bright, characteristics that are both right up my alley. I fully enjoyed the way the yarn behaved while weaving this larger piece. After cutting it off the loom, I hung it up on the studio wall to arrive at a final verdict about whether this yarn works well for tapestry. After a couple of days of seeing it in different light, I can say that yes, I think it does. There IS some sheen to it after all, which is noticeable in the detail shot.

My conclusion is that Venne Organic is a perfectly good choice for weft for many reasons: the eco-friendly nature of its production, the way it behaves while weaving, the quality of the finished tapestry, and the way it catches and reflects light. I’ve already started another project with it!

laurakamianmcdermott.com
[IG @laurakamianmcdermott](https://www.instagram.com/laurakamianmcdermott)



Venne Organic color card



Detail of Jagged Skyline of Car Keys

Member News

From Sue Weil

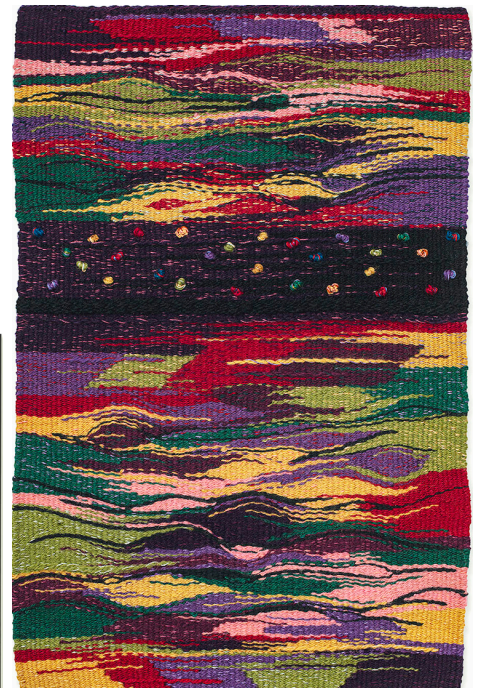
2020 passed in an almost dreamlike fashion (or should I say nightmarish?). Like most folks, I hunkered down and tried to make sense of the “facts” and follow science-based recommendations to keep myself safe and healthy. I walk a few miles most mornings and in July became Director at Large on the ATA Board. Work progressed in my home studio through the spring. My father passed away in June. Together with my sister, the two of us traveled to the Chicago area for five weeks to shut down the family home. Upon our return to California in mid-September, my two daughters arrived to weather the pandemic at home through the fall. They both returned to NYC mid-January. My initial productivity in the studio during the early months of the year stalled.

I am back in my studio a bit more these days and have applied to a few shows. Surface Design Association’s *Mandatory Color* exhibition in Lubbock, Texas closed in early December. I was thrilled that my piece *Say Their Names* was accepted into that show. *Vanishing ...* juried into the Crocker Kingsley show in Roseville, California (open now through February 20) and *Real News* will open at the end of the month in American Tapestry Biennial 13 at Highfield Hall & Gardens, Falmouth, Massachusetts. I’m delighted that *Winds of Change* will be a part of our *More IMPACT* show this fall and a couple of little pieces (*A Peek Into Monet’s Garden* and *The Gloaming*) were to be in HGA’s *Symphony of the Mountains* exhibit, now scheduled for Convergence in 2022.

I long for the day when we can all gather in person again – what a wonderful group we have in TWW!!!



Sue Weil, *Vanishing...*, 38 x 36 in



Sue Weil, *Tour de France*, 22 x 14 in



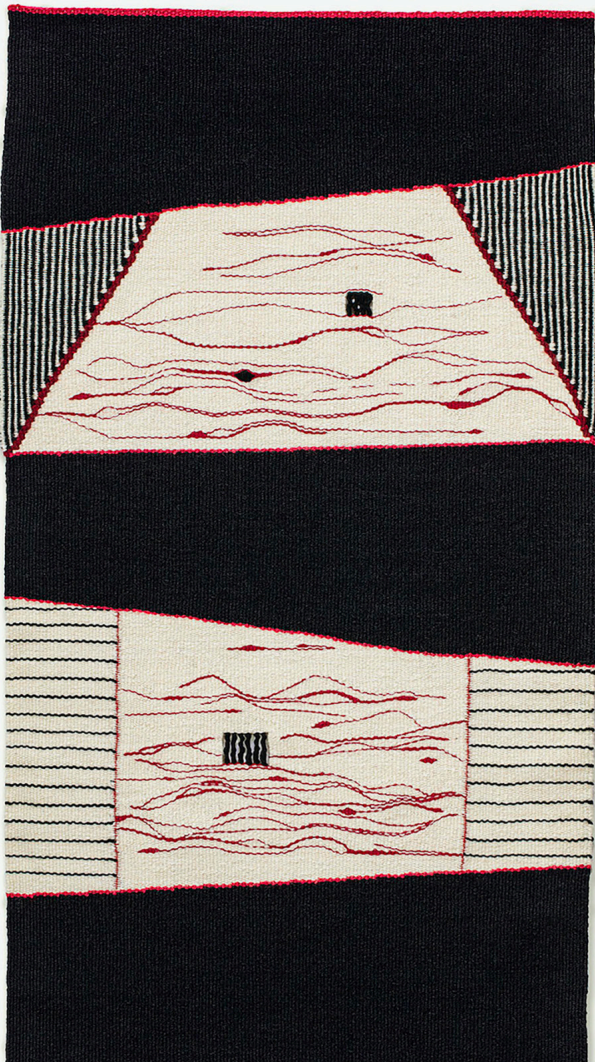
Sue Weil, *Tic Tac Toe*, 12 x 12 in



Sue Weil, *A Peek Into Monet's Garden*, 16 x 19 in



From Sue Weil, Continued



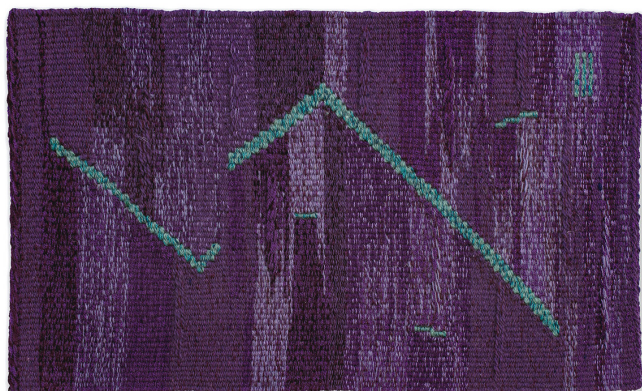
Sue Weil, *Shelter in Place*, 36 x 21 in



Sue Weil, *Say Their Names*, 9 x 27 in



Sue Weil, *Celebrate*, 20 x 20 in



Sue Weil, *The Gloaming*, 11 x 19 in



Sue Weil, *Winds of change*, 17 x 15 in

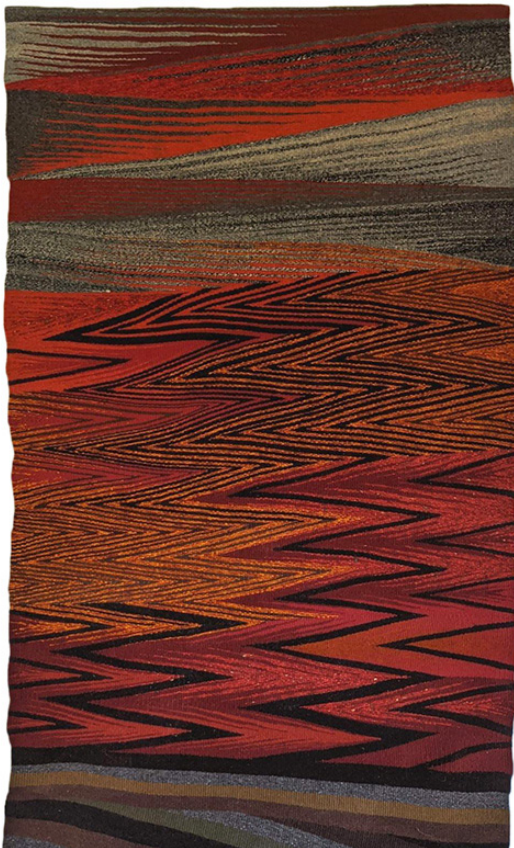
From Deborah Corsini

I was invited to be one of the jurors for the 11th "From Lausanne to Beijing" International Fiber Art Biennale. This year's theme is *Symbiosis and Coexistence*. The virtual show opened on January 16, 2021 and will be available until February 16, 2021. An in-person exhibition is planned for a later date depending on the pandemic. Here is the link to the show at the Tsinghua University in Beijing:

<https://bfbfiberart.ad.tsinghua.edu.cn>

My tapestry *Fire Season* is shown in the grouping: jury/consultant/curator works. The presentation may be very slow to download in your browser.

In addition to this online exhibit, *Fire Season* is included in the 42nd Annual Contemporary Crafts Show at the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in Mesa, Arizona. The exhibit runs from February 12 – April 18, 2021.



Deborah Corsini, *Fire Season*, 2020, wedge weave and eccentric weave, wool, 60 x 35 in

From Molly Elkind

I will be the "Artist in Virtual Residence" at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, mid-February through mid-May. I will be offering a series of five virtual lectures and workshops:

- Using Photographs to Design for Tapestry
- Building a Color Palette for Tapestry
- Improv Weaving: Break the Rules!
- Tapestry Design Elements and Principles
- Into the Third Dimension: Texture and Relief in Contemporary Tapestry

Please check <https://www.weaversguildmn.org/> for full details and registration info, coming soon. Non-guild members are welcome!

mollyelkind.com

<https://mollyelkindtalkingtextiles.blogspot.com>

Director of Volunteers, American Tapestry Alliance



Molly Elkind, *SkyGrass*, work-in-progress



From Patricia Jordan

Since I do not have images of samples or finished pieces to include at this moment, I do want to share news of two classes I am taking. Early in the shelter-in-place period, I was able to continue fairly well with my routines doing some tapestry and fabric weaving, but as time progressed, I got into a long pause in my tapestry weaving practice – a funk really. Historically, taking a class will bring me out of that headspace, but there were no new Zoom classes of interest in tapestry.

So I took online classes in watercolor painting, drawing, and punch-needle rug making (of all things!). On this page is an image of my first attempt at drawing/painting rocks, with particular attention to value. My goal is to make a cartoon and weave the image or some part of it next. Stay tuned. I have a table set up in the corner of my studio with all the tools for a watercolor practice and have loved the medium, but not enough to abandon weaving for it.

I have been fascinated with soumak for some time. Rarely do I find anything demonstrated or written on the technique, but during this past month I found two online classes with a primary emphasis on soumak. Woopie! And I want to share those with you.

I was fortunate to get into David Johnson's three-session Zoom weaving class given out of Longmont Yarn Shoppe in Colorado. His teaching emphasis is on "painting with soumak." Classes are each three-hours long and spaced two weeks apart. The first one took place last Saturday. I have admired his work because of the evidence of both strong geometrics and curves in his designs, often in the same piece. He makes looms and sends each student their own loom to use in the class and then keep. Needless to say, I am enjoying sampling the techniques he is teaching and look forward to the next two classes. I had tried to sign up for his previous Zoom classes but they filled so fast that I missed out. Therefore, getting into this class takes on added excitement. <http://www.arachneweaving.com/about>



Initial sketches and paintings I created for class assignments as an exercise in color value.



The second class I want to mention is the online class "The Many Faces of Soumak" taught and produced by Kennita Tully. It is a series of self-paced demonstrations, slide presentations, and written instruction that the student may keep forever, offering the advantage of going back and viewing them many times. I am so thoroughly enjoying this class that I want to make sure you all know of its availability. <https://studio.kennitatully.com/soumak>

So, the classes have contributed to my well-being during the past two months and I am hopeful they will spur me back to a more grounded tapestry weaving practice.

What is TAC?

Elicited by a question from the recent TWW meeting, I wanted to give a little background on this wonderful resource. TAC is the Textile Arts Council, a support group for the Textile and Costume Collection at the de Young Museum which is half of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Its mission is to provide lectures, workshops, events, and travel opportunities for artists, designers, aficionados, and collectors of ethnic textiles, rugs, tapestries, Western costume, and contemporary fiber art.

Once a month (excluding July, August, and December), there is a lecture on some aspect of textiles. These have included a range of topics such as the history of Levi jeans, indigo dyeing in North Africa, Andean weaving, sustainability issues, art to wear, and so much more. These lectures are free to TAC members but if you register for them and pay a small fee, they will be available through Eventbrite. Details are in the Upcoming Lectures link on the TAC website.

To complement the lectures there are often workshops offered (now on Zoom) or visits to local studios/collections (suspended for now), and trips planned around a textile theme (also sadly suspended for now).

There is a newsletter and monthly email to keep you up to date, as well as on Facebook @TextileArtsCouncil.

If you are interested, membership details are on the website www.textileartscouncil.org or you can also just sign up to be on the email list (sent once a month).

There is so much to learn and be inspired by! Check it out.

—Alex Friedman, an active Board member of the Textile Arts Council

TWW has a Google Drive Account!

TWW has its own Google Drive account for storage and archive of important TWW documents (other than those on the TWW website). The TWW Secretary (currently Rita Parks) is the account administrator.



Who will this help?

- Organizers of exhibits, workshops, conferences: tips from past organizers, share working docs with committee members, store important records
- TWW Board members: minutes from quarterly Board meetings and other working documents
- CNCH Liaison: documents related to managing the CNCH relationship and events
- Official volunteer position holders (membership chair, historian, website manager): documents about procedures, records
- Members at large: access to information

We will need your assistance in submitting documents to this drive. These include any documents that are important to retain such as records or committee procedures. We want to collect both current and some earlier documents. Scanned copies of printed materials can be stored in cases where documents are not in digital form.

If you have documents or spreadsheets that you think would be a valuable resource for TWW members to be able to access, please email them to Rita Parks (ritaparks@gmail.com). Even if you think we may already have copies of the documents, please feel free to send them again. We are still working out procedures for collecting, organizing, and making materials in this Google Drive account available to TWW members. Expect to hear more about this topic in 2021. If you have questions or suggestions now, please email Cynthia McAfee (cajmcafee@gmail.com).



Tapestry Weavers West 2021 Calendar

February

- 1 Membership renewals due
- 20 Saturday, 10 am PST
Zoom Presentation with Dance Doyle

March

- 13 Saturday, 9:45 am PST
Member meeting via Zoom, presentation
by Mary Zicafoose
- 21 Submission deadline for newsletter

May

- 8 Saturday, 9:45 am – 12:30 pm PDT
Member meeting via Zoom. Member
Show and Tell via PowerPoint
presentation.

July

- ▶ CNCH 2021 conference canceled

August

- 18-22 *More IMPACT: Climate Change* exhibition
at San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

September

- 18 September member meeting via Zoom.
Date is tentative.



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— Henri Matisse

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specially designed tapestry tools, produced locally and At Norwegian Tapestry
yarns. A market place for used tapestry equipment and books, as acquired
or placed on consignment.*

*And of course - Books written by Kathe Todd- Hooker and Pat Spark:
Tapestry 101, Line in Tapestry, Shaped Tapestry, So Warped (with Pat Spark)
And some books by others (Linda Rees, Nezhnie - Weaver & Innovative Artist)*

Watch for - Tapestry and Friends will be available in June.

*We offer all levels of instruction, design and making it happen!
Or by private instruction, where you create your own agenda of learning.
Instruction can be one on one, group or workshop. I also offer private critiques
and consulting, and am available as an itinerant tapestry instructor,
traveling around giving workshops and private instruction.*

And, yes, gr! It is both small format and large format.

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News Submissions

Our newsletter is published four times a year and distributed via email.

Members are encouraged to write about their tapestries and tapestry-related events and exhibitions, book reviews, and announcements. Members are also welcome to advertise their textile-related businesses, classes and workshops, supplies, and services. This free service is available to TWW members.

All submissions are welcome. We request that you please provide the following, when possible:

- High resolution photos;
- Exhibition titles;
- Name of gallery or venue;
- Address;
- Dates of exhibition.
- Submit text as an email attachment within a separate text program such as MS Word or use Google Docs to transfer text files

Please label images with **title, year, materials, size, date the work was woven, size and names of people pictured**, if appropriate. Images may not be reproduced without captions. Please include these identifiers to each photo. If submitting for more than one show, please indicate which photos apply to which exhibits.

Thank you,
Your Newsletter Editor

“Learn the rules like a pro,
so you can break them like
an artist.”

—Pablo Picasso

“You can't use up creativity.
The more you use,
the more you have.”

—Maya Angelou

Tapestry Weavers West

is an organization with a goal to act as a supporting educational and networking group for tapestry artists. For membership information contact our membership and roster chair.
www.tapestryweaverswest.org



Your 2021 Board Members Elected Positions

— Presidents —

Cynthia McAfee
cajmcafee@gmail.com

Mary Sylvia
marieauxbois@yahoo.com

— Vice President and Programming Chair —

Martha Lightcap
lightcapm@gmail.com

— Treasurer —

Jenny Heard
jennyheard@yahoo.com

— Secretary —

Rita Parks
ritaparks@gmail.com

— CNCH Liaison —

Madeline Brane
mbrane@sbcglobal.net

Volunteer Positions

— Membership and Roster Chair —

Marcia Ellis
mellis@sonic.net

— Newsletter Editor —

Patricia Jordan
pj@reese-jordan.com

— Historians —

Bobbi Chamberlain
webob@vbbn.com

Sonja Miremont
sonjabm1@comcast.net

— Exhibition Mailing List —

Jan Moore
apricotjan2009@att.net

— Webmaster —

Ama Wertz
ama.wertz@gmail.com

From Your TWW Treasurer

Treasurer's reports are given at our quarterly meetings. An annual report is also emailed to all renewing members in January of each year. Reports are not published in the newsletter, but are available to any member at any time by emailing the current Treasurer and requesting one.

Jenny Heard, TWW Treasurer
jennyheard@yahoo.com

Membership Rosters



All TWW members will receive an emailed Membership Roster after it is finalized on March 1 of each year. When there are changes during the year, the roster will be updated in the members section of our website. Please email me if you need the password or want to change your information.

Thank you.

Marcia Ellis
TWW Membership and Roster Chair
mellis@sonic.net

Editorial Note: Thank you Ama Wertz for, once again, proofreading our newsletter.

— Patricia Jordan