



# NEW YORK THREADS

The Newsletter of  
The New York Guild of Handweavers  
Box 1623, Madison Square Station, New York NY 10159-1623  
Web: [www.nyhandweavers.org](http://www.nyhandweavers.org) e-mail: [info@nyhandweavers.org](mailto:info@nyhandweavers.org)

Meeting at The School of Visual Arts  
214 East 21st Street, Room 206A  
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues

**March 2009**  
social hour at noon  
program at 1PM

## *"An Unpublished Interview With Anni Albers -October 19,1990"*

Nell Znamierowski-

March 28, 2009

Anni Albers was the first "modern" weaver to gain world-wide prominence through her innovative fabrics and her two books, On Weaving and On Designing. She was both a student and a teacher at the Bauhaus and fomentor of contemporary ideas in all things to do with art, design and architecture. It was at the Bauhaus that she met Josef Albers, also a teacher, who she married, and who later became the famous color theoretician and minimalist painter.



*photo courtesy of MOMA*

The Bauhaus had many architects in attendance as both students and teachers. It was through these connections that Anni Albers got commissions for interior fabrics, usually with stringent requirements that furthered her experimentation with new materials and weave structures.

When the Hitler regime closed the Bauhaus in 1933, Anni and Josef Albers came to the USA courtesy of the efforts of Philip Johnson (architect) and Edward Warburg (art patron). They first went to Black Mountain College in North Carolina to teach. Later Josef got a teaching position at Yale University and the couple moved to Connecticut. Josef died in 1976 and Anni in 1994. The Albers Foundation (<http://www.albersfoundation.org/>) directed by Nicholas Fox Weber, is the repository of all information on both Josef and Anni Albers.

The lecture, based on an interview, will focus on Anni's early years at the Bauhaus, her work in Germany and her views on how designs develop.

Long-time NYGH member Nell Znamierowski taught for over three decades at FIT and authored the classic guide Step-by-Step Weaving; as well as working as a textile designer and color consultant.

## BOOKMARK EXCHANGE 2009

Weavers are invited to participate in a nationwide Yahoo bookmark exchange. Requirements? 20 bookmarks! Sign up for the exchange before May 1, 2009. Bookmarks are due by Labor Day, 2009. (September 7, 2009)

Synopsis of rules: weave 20 bookmarks, sized: between 1/2" to 3" wide and between 5" to 11" long. Fill out draft, attach bookmarks to the draft, and mail them to the coordinator. Cost is \$6 or return postage for international participants. The theme this year is "Sparkle", a little something twinkling in your warp or weft.

Official rules/draft blanks are posted on Yahoo groups: BookmarkExchange2009. - *GailGondek*

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## NEW IN TOWN

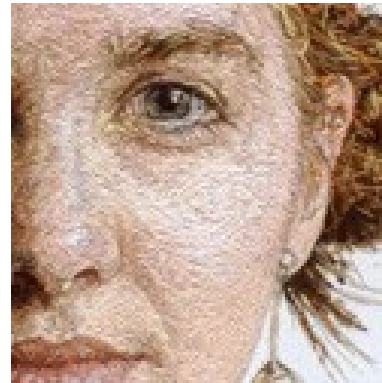
Work is taking me to NYC for approximately six months. I'm getting an apartment (East Village) and would like to borrow or rent a small loom for at least part of that time. Needless to say, the apartment is small (though larger than the hotel rooms I usually live in) and I need something the size of a baby wolf or smaller with at least 8 harnesses. If anyone in the local area has something that is not being used, and is portable enough to move, I would provide it with a good short term home. If anyone wants to get together, I'd love to hear from you. I'm already in the NYC area but won't be in the apartment until April. Thank you, Alison

## OBITUARY

The NYGH joins the Michigan Guild of Handweavers in mourning the passing of their member and friend, Margaret Windeknecht, on March 9, 2009. Margaret was a very talented weaver and a great inspiration to others. A gifted writer, Margaret wrote *Color-and-Weave*, *Color-and-Weave II*, *The Pinwheel: An Exploration in Color-and-Weave Design*, *Point Twill With Color-And-Weave*, and *Rosepath Motif: An Approach to Weaving Design*. -Gail Gondek

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

**Lyons Wier Gallery**  
175 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, NYC 10011  
212-242-6220



### Painting With Wool: New Embroidered Portraits

Remembering back to a crewel embroidery piece she did as a child gave painter Cayce Zavaglia the idea to incorporate all of her current interests into portraits of wool. As she tried to re-learn the traditional stitches of crewel embroidery, she realized it was the medium alone that she was wishing to employ. The technique needed to borrow from her study of and experience with drawing and painting. The process needed to develop as she worked from portrait to portrait and experimented with the material.

Working with an established range of wool colors proved frustrating at first because she was unable to mix the colors by hand. Consequently, she created a system of sewing the threads in a sequence that would ultimately give the allusion of a certain color or tone. The direction in which the threads were sewn had to mimic the way lines are layered in a drawing to give the allusion of depth, volume, and form. Over time the stitches have become tighter and more complex but ultimately more evocative of flesh and hair and cloth.

Cayce Zavaglia's work unabashedly nods its head to the tradition of tapestry and her own lifetime exposure to and love of craft. Using wool has allowed her to make more of a long-term commitment to each piece, as well as broaden the dialogue between portrait and process. It is her hope that each work would initiate a journey - one that causes the viewer to advance and retreat as they are introduced to a family portrait and a re-interpretation of traditional embroidery.

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**Fiberarts** magazine's **Student Sampling 2009** will be featured in our November/December 2009 issue and is open to current students in a collegiate-level fiber program.

Please submit: A one-hundred-word artist statement, five images (three full view and two details; images can be transparencies, slides, or high-resolution digital images [300 dpi]), full caption information (including title, year complete, materials, techniques, dimensions, and photo credit),

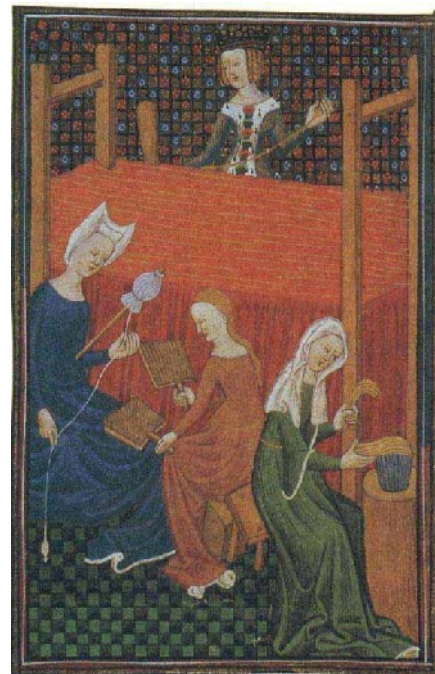
information about what degree you are perusing, and permanent address (items will be returned in October) to: *Fiberarts* Student Showcase, 201 E. Fourth St., Loveland, CO 80537-5655; or submit online  
**Deadline: June 15**

For more information, contact (970) 669-7672; [info@fiberarts.com](mailto:info@fiberarts.com).

## NGYH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Sara McCue

## EARLY CALL FOR DEMONSTRATORS



Here is a great opportunity to demonstrate our craft and promote the activities of the Guild. On October 4, 2009 the Washington Heights Inwood Development Corporation

will sponsor the 25<sup>th</sup> **Annual Medieval Festival** in Fort Tryon Park. Members of the Guild have been asked to demonstrate fiber activities. They want weavers, spinners, embroiderers, tablet weavers and just about any thing textile related. This is a much anticipated and widely attended event that kicks off the fall season in upper Manhattan. Why don't we make it extra special by showing what we can do? Textile creation was a big part of everyday life in the Medieval Ages. We should show today's population what that meant. You can see what sort of activities transpire and the scope of the fair at the web site <http://www.whidc.org/home.html>. There is even a short video that shows among other things: jousting on horseback, juggling, chanting monks, and damsels in distress.

If you can participate, please let Terry Henley know as he will be coordinating this for the Guild. We may even be in costume!!

### **NEW LIBRARY BOOK ADDITION**

Sigrid Piroch's "*Miniatures and Fine Threads - Small is Beautiful*" Weaving - Workshop manual - Intermediate - 1991 Weaving - Structure/technique – is our latest addition to the Guild Library, via member donation. Thank you!

### **WORKSHOPS!!**

The workshop "UNDERSTANDING SUPPLEMENTAL WARP" by Barbara Herbster will be offered in Mendham, NJ May 7-8, by Jockey Hollow Weavers. In this exciting 2-day workshop, participants

will weave a beautiful chenille or bamboo scarf or table runner. Barbara will provide individual warps based on your weaving experience, loom, fiber, and color preferences. Barbara will also be teaching her supplemental warp method, which does not require a second warp beam, hanging bottles, or fishing weights. \$100 (for non-members, which includes membership to the guild) + a materials fee to be collected by the instructor. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Sherrie Miller

The Handweaving and Fiber Arts Guild of Westchester presents "ONE WARP, MANY WAYS TO WEAVE IT" Tuesday, April 21, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Betty Vera will provide a selection of threadings to choose from and a list of color suggestions. In class we will explore different weaving strategies. Explore different kinds of treadlings, various weft colors, hand-manipulated techniques, and other effects, depending on the weave structure. \$60 + \$5 to \$10 materials fee  
The Weaving Center at Marymount Convent, 32 Warren Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Closing date for items for the April newsletter is **April 1, 2009**. Newsletter will be distributed mid month.