



NEW YORK THREADS

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers
Box 1623, Madison Square Station, New York 10159-1623
Web: www.nyhandweavers.org e-mail: info@nyhandweavers.org

Meeting at The School of Visual Arts
214 East 21st Street, Room 703A
Social Hour at Noon
Program at 1:00PM

January 2016

January 30, 2016, 1:00–3:00 PM

Peggy Hart—Designing Blankets, Half day workshop



Join us for a half-day workshop with Peggy Hart, who will take us through the steps involved in designing blankets.

As Peggy explains, “In this workshop, weavers will consider materials and patterns, and plan a blanket. They will also prepare to weave a sample swatch to test the chosen yarn with the pattern. Wool yarns can both celebrate and confound even the best pattern.

I will bring blankets to share as well as sample swatches that didn't make it into a blanket. I've lived in Ghana, and have been much influenced by West African strip weave. I will share strip woven treasures, and talk about how to design a strip woven blanket if you don't happen to own a 10 foot loom.

We will talk about finishing techniques and options.”



MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

Metropolitan Museum

1000 Fifth Avenue, NY 10028

212-535-7710 <http://metmuseum.org>

American Quilts and Folk Art is an exhibition featuring eight recently acquired quilts, only one of which has been shown before.



Ernestine Eberhardt Zaumseil. Bedcover, ca.1865 (detail)

Museum of Art and Design (MAD)

2 Columbus Circle, NY 10019

212-299-7777 <http://madmuseum.org/>

Dead Treez is the first solo New York museum show by artist Ebony G. Patterson. The installation includes five tapestries and a life-size figural tableau of ten male mannequins, dressed in a kaleidoscopic mix of floral fabrics. For more information, see <http://madmuseum.org/exhibition/ebony-g-patterson-dead-treez#>

Museum at FIT

Seventh Avenue at 27th Street, NY 10001

212-217-4558

<http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/>

Fairy Tale Fashion is an exhibition that examines fairy tales through the lens of high fashion. The show runs through April 16, 2016. For more information, see

<http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/fairy-tale-fashion.php>

Denim: Fashion's Frontier explores the multifaceted history of denim and its relationship with high fashion from the 19th century to the present. The show runs through May 7, 2016. For more information

<http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/exhibitions/denim.php>



HGA CALL FOR ARTISTS

This year, Convergence will take place in Milwaukee, WI. As usual, the Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) organizes a number of exhibitions in

conjunction. At this time, HGA is looking for submissions for potential inclusion in these Exhibitions. While the deadlines are very close, some of you might have a project ready that would fit right in.

The deadline for *Small Expressions* is January 19, 2016, and the exhibition will run July 23-August 14, 2016.

The other three exhibitions all take place August 3-6, 2016, and their respective submission deadlines are:

Moving Forward, Fashion Show and Exhibit. Deadline January 20, 2016.

Ice Age, Yardage Exhibit. Deadline January 27, 2016.

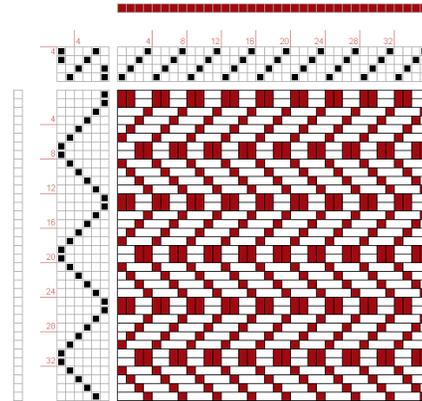
Mixed Bag, All Media Exhibit. Deadline February 1, 2016.

For more detailed information, check out the online prospectuses at <http://www.weavespindye.org/exhibits>

NEW RESOURCES

Handweaving.net, that wonderful online resource offering access to so many patterns and other weaving related publications continues to add new drafts to their offerings. Recently they added a new collection of 1723 drafts from the book *Revised Edition of Textile Design Book* by Emil Jansen. The book was originally published in 1898,

in Patterson, NJ, and was found in the Library of Congress. Check it out at <http://www.handweaving.net/collection-drafts/collection/64/revised-edition-of-textile-design-book-emil-jansen>



SPECIAL OFFER

Selvedge, the British textile-focused magazine, has a special subscription offer this month, promoted as a way to “celebrate textiles.” If you subscribe before the end of January, via their website, and enter the code ‘celebrate’ you will get a 10% discount on the subscription price. When you subscribe for three years at once, they even send a baby alpaca scarf woven in Peru. So if you have been thinking of subscribing to this magazine, now’s the time. See <http://www.selvedge.org/pages/subscriptions/>



EVENTS

The organizers of the Long Island Fleece & Fiber Fair, which this year will take place May 14 and 15, are once again organizing a chartered bus for visitors traveling to the Fair from Manhattan (on Saturday May 14 only). Tickets are now available for \$45, and include round-trip transportation, admission to the Fair, and a goodie bag filled with samples, discounts, and more. Note that the organizers will only provide this service if more than 40 tickets are sold by February 15, which will allow them to break even. This precaution is taken because in years past the organizers have sustained losses due to insufficient ticket sales. So, if you are planning to go to the Fair, and would like to make use of this service, be sure to get your tickets early.



VOGUE KNITTING LIVE 2016

For the third year in a row NYGH was present at Vogue Knitting Live on January 15-17. Members' work was on display in our booth, and on our table we had both a Dorothy 4-shaft loom and a Cricket rigid heddle loom for

interested visitors to try their hand at. Many people stopped by to find out more about weaving and our Guild. Once again, it was a successful event, where we were able to share our love of weaving with fellow fiber art aficionados. Much thanks goes to Linda Sax who, once again, so ably coordinated the whole project. Thanks are also due to all the wonderful volunteers who contributed time and effort to man the booth.



A SAMPLE PROJECT

The artist Helen Mirra, with the assistance of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is in the process of conducting a fascinating project. She is collecting woven samples from all over the world, woven to her specifications, which she will subsequently turn into, not only a traveling exhibition, but also a form of weaver exchange. The specifications call for a two pieces of woven cloth. The pieces are required to be more or less square, the approximate measurement of the weaver's arm, and must be striped, with each stripe being approximately the width of the weaver's hand. The warp can be anything, but the weft has to be undyed yarn from the

weaver's region. The pieces are to be sent to Ms. Mirra, who will distribute one piece to another participant elsewhere in the world, while the other piece will be included in the exhibit. A book is also planned. Unfortunately, this information did not come to our attention until after the deadline by which potential participants should have contacted the artist, but at least we can look forward to the end result of this project.

A TRAVEL STORY

Recently, while in the Netherlands, I visited the Museum het Leids Wevershuis (Museum the Leiden Weaver's House) in Leiden, an ancient town famous for, among many others things, its university—the oldest in the country (and my alma mater), birth place of Rembrandt, host town for the Pilgrim Fathers before their move to America, and, most importantly, a long history of cloth production going back at least to medieval times.

Weaving was for many centuries done at home by individual weavers. It was not until the mid-nineteenth century that it was moved into factories. Most of the former homes of weavers were eventually converted into regular homes, but one has been salvaged and turned into this small museum. It shows the cramped quarters weavers and their families shared in the past. The place was made up of only 2 rooms,

an attic, and a small courtyard. The front room was entirely taken up by the loom (a traditional loom has again been set up in this room), and most of the attic was used for storage of yarn and cloth, leaving only the small back room for the family to live in.



While Leiden is traditionally known as the Lakenstad or Laken (woolen cloth) town, this particular house was for many generations occupied by Flemish linen weavers who had fled the Spanish occupation of the Southern Netherlands (now Belgium).

The conversion of the house into a museum, its maintenance, all activities, and documentation are entirely handled by volunteers. Though this clearly puts limits on what can be done, the enthusiasm of the volunteer staff, and their deep knowledge of the history of the house and local history easily make up for any shortcomings, and a visit is definitely worthwhile, both to the weaver's house and the town of Leiden.

Ria Koopmans

PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2015-2016

September 26, 2015 Deb Irmiter, **Blended Drafts**

October 31, 2015 Daryl Lancaster, **Photographing Your Work**

December 5, 2015 **Holiday Party**

January 30, 2016 Peggy Hart, **Designing Blankets** (half-day workshop)

February 27, 2016 **Show and Tell**

March 19, 2016 **Doubleweave** (DVD half-day workshop)

April 30, 2016 Becky Ashenden, **Nordic Journey**



Jacqui Fink

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

General info: info@nyhandweavers.org

Web Master:

webmaster@nyhandweavers.org

Membership: Tina Bliss,

membership@nyhandweavers.org

Librarian: Carie Kramer,
librarian@nyhandweavers.org

President: Gail Gondek,
president@nyhandweavers.org

Vice-President: Soraya Shah,
vp@nyhandweavers.org

Secretary: Jonathan Miller,
secretary@nyhandweavers.org

Treasurer: Carol Steuer,
treasurer@nyhandweavers.org

Programs: Carie Kramer,
programs@nyhandweavers.org

Special Events Chair: Position currently vacant

Publicity: Linda Sax,
publicity@nyhandweavers.org

Newsletter Distribution/Hospitality: Bea Aubrey

Newsletter Editor: Ria Koopmans,
editor@nyhandweavers.org

Contact any of the above, and more, via the contact page on our website:

<http://nyhandweavers.org/contact>



Closing date for the February issue is February 12, 2016. Please send your submissions to [the editor](#)