

New York Threads

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next Meeting September 23, 2017

Tactile Art: Dimensional Weaving with Collapse Weave Techniques

Denise Kovnat

Throughout the ages, weavers have used collapse-weave techniques to achieve texture and character in their fabrics. Today, technology gives us exotic yarns as another tool. This talk, accompanied by slides, offers an overview of how yarns, structure, and finishing can work alone or in combination to create three-dimensional fabrics.



Denise will be bringing many samples and asks for three volunteers (5'1" to 5'6", size 8–10) to model garments that were juried into Convergence Shows.

A knitter since childhood, Denise Kovnat came to weaving in 1998 after a career in promotional editing and writing. After studying with *Handwoven's* 2016 Teacher of the

Year Joyce Robards and others for a number of years, she began teaching at the Weaving and Fiber Arts Center in East Rochester, NY. She has taught at Convergence, at MAFA, and at regional conferences and guilds. Her garments have been juried into Convergence fashion shows every year since 2008.



Artist's statement: Weaving and the related fiber arts challenge me always and give me calm, community, learning, purpose, and beauty. While I value technique and continually work to improve my skills, I value imagination even more. Ideas flourish best for me within the disciplines of collapse weave and painted warps in extended parallel threadings. My fabrics usually find their way into garments or scarves.

<http://www.denisekovnat.com/2014/08/collapse-weave-on-four-harnesses.html>

MEETING LOCATION

School of Visual Arts
133 West 21st Street
between 6th and 7th Ave.
Room 602C

Swatch Analysis . 10:30am

Social Hour 12:00 Noon

Show & Tell 12:30pm

Program begins . . 1:00pm

Swatch Analysis Study Session

Come at 10:30 am and join your guildmates at the monthly swatch analysis study session.

Learn how to:

- identify structures
- brush up on your skills
- but most importantly, see, be inspired by, and feel some really beautiful samples

We'll identify some of the bounty of swatches from plain weave to 16S complex weaves we've been given, attach them to record sheets, put them in notebooks for members to study and enjoy.

All materials provided.

These swatches have been languishing in a box and deserve to be brought back to life and shared with the membership.

**REMEMBER TO BRING
BACK YOUR BORROWED
LIBRARY BOOKS!**

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS



CRAFTING CHANGE: NEW TEXTILE WORK BY STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The work of FIT students and faculty takes center stage in the Gallery FIT exhibition *Crafting Change*. Organized by the textile/surface design department in conjunction with New York Textile Month, the works featured in *Crafting Change* use long-established techniques in a modern context to explore the shifting boundaries between art, design, and technology. Opens Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

The Museum at FIT
7th Ave at 27th Street, NYC 10001
212-217-4558
<https://www.fitnyc.edu/museum/>



GOWANUS OPEN STUDIOS

Artists in the Gowanus neighborhood (and slightly beyond) open their studio doors on October 21 and 22 for a free self guided tour, to view art, meet the artists, learn about the process of art-making, and get a glimpse of the life of artists. The tour area spans Bergen Street to 18th Street, and from Court Street to 5th Avenue in Brooklyn. Five women fiber artists will be participating

October 21–22, 2017 only from Noon–6pm

To register, see a map of the Gowanus area and listing of artists, please visit <https://www.artsgowanus.org/>

WEFT WEAVING CLUB AT LION BRAND STUDIO



Hello! I wanted to let the NYGH know that I host a monthly group at Lion Brand Yarn Studio at 34 West 15th street for small loom weavers. Pin looms, tape, rigid heddle and tapestry

weavers are all welcome to attend, weave in the company of other weavers, and show off/admire the work of other weavers. It's free to attend and a great way for those who are curious about weaving to get their hands on a rigid heddle, tapestry or inkle loom and ask questions. The meeting dates through November are: Thursday 9/28 and Thursday 11/2. All meetings are 6:00–8:00 pm. We also rent rigid heddle looms at Lion Brand Yarn. This page lists the looms we have available and the rates: [http://wp.me/P2EkWE-a0R-Gretchen Fancher](http://wp.me/P2EkWE-a0R-Gretchen-Fancher)

NEW ENGLAND SCENIC DRIVE

WORKING WEAVERS STUDIO TRAIL is a self guided driving tour of 6 weaving studios located along the back roads of Western Massachusetts. The studios will be open from 10AM to 5 PM the weekend of October 14 and 15 only, during the peak of fall foliage colors. Some of the weavers have their studios in historic 1826 homes, one spins linen from Nova Scotia for her hand towels. Please note that Vavstuga Weaving School is also in the neighborhood!



<https://www.workingweavers.com/> for weavers bios, map and places to dine and stay overnight.

ASIAN TEXTILE STUDY TOUR



Sue Richardson is now accepting reservations for her 13 day cruise, focusing on ikat and traditional weaving of eastern Indonesia.

The remote ikat-weaving islands have one of the most diverse textile cultures on the planet. Hand-woven cloth plays a pivotal role in the cohesion of all these societies, cementing clan alliances through complex gift exchanges, reinforcing tribal loyalties and underpinning the annual cycle of rituals. As some islanders emphasize: 'without cloth we cannot marry'.

Sadly the encroachment of the modern world means that the number of communities where women still continue to spin their own cotton, prepare their own natural dyes and weave on traditional back-tension looms is limited. Their numbers are dwindling, and within a generation many could be gone. The 2018 cruise begins on Thursday 16th May and finishes on Monday 28th May. To learn more about the islands, weavers, and tour, please visit <http://www.asiantextilestudies.com/tour.html>

CALL FOR ENTRIES

EXHIBITION IN PRINT: The Surface Design Association member and non-member artists working in or inspired by fiber arts and/or textile media are invited to submit work for a juried issue of the Surface Design Journal, *Future Fabrication: SDA Annual International Exhibition in Print*. Selected work will appear in print in the Winter 2017/18 issue of the *Surface Design Journal* (publication date December 23, 2017), in celebration of SDA's 40th anniversary, Exhibition In Print aims to recognize the diversity of talent working within the fields of fiber and surface design as well as other practices that utilize fiber and textile materials. This year's theme, *Future Fabrication*, asks artists to think about how innovations related to fiber and textile materials might shape our future. SDA warmly invites entries that consider advancements in technological innovation, material exploration, as well as provide a glimpse into the

future through concept and form. Artists working in all media invited to apply. The deadline for submissions is September 22, 2017. <http://www surfacedesign.org/crafting-community/>

NEW YARN STORE



String Thing is an exciting new addition to yarn retailers/ teaching studios in New York. Located at 54 7th Avenue in Brooklyn, String Thing offers

classes in knitting, crochet and triangle frame weaving, for adults and children. For more information, visit their website at www.stringthingstudio.com or telephone: 929.337.6130

TOURS AND WEAVING CLASSES IN GUATEMALA

Greetings from Maya Traditions Foundation! We are a Fair-Trade organization operating out of Panajachel, Guatemala on Lake Atitlan.



Maya Traditions continually seeks to support indigenous artisan partners through social programs that work to build capacity, preserve local cultures and environment, and motivate women to strengthen their entrepreneurial ecosystems. As a reflection of these goals, the Ethical Tourism Program is dedicated to poverty alleviation, social welfare, education, women empowerment, and biodiversity conservation. Since our main focus at Maya Traditions is supporting cooperatives of indigenous women weavers, many of our tours focus on the art of back-strap weaving and fair trade.

In addition to working hand in hand with cooperatives all around the Western Highlands of Guatemala, we are equipped to provide high quality tours and cultural exchanges for visitors and tourists. For specifics on travel plans, including homestays and classes, please visit our website <http://www.mayatraditions.org/ethical-travel/>

UPCOMING GUILD CALENDAR

Oct 28, 2017

Weaving with Light and Air: Leno and Gauze Structures

Patrice George

Dec 2, 2017

Party! Crafts! Food! Fun!

Jan 27, 2018

Behind the Scene: What Inspires and Sustains Us
Suzanne Tick

Feb 24, 2018

Textile Detective: Antique American Textiles
Tom Knisely

Mar 24, 2018

Hands-On Workshop: Plain Weave isn't Plain Anymore
Gail Gondek

April 28, 2018

Dimensional Double Cloth
Anastasia Azure

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/The-New-York-Guild-of-Handweavers-111455605593162/>

https://www.instagram.com/NY_GUILD_OF_HANDWEAVERS/

<https://www.pinterest.com/nyhandweavers/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG7Bzh2BR34MwaW8enHEkGg>

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/new-york-guild-of-handweavers>

<https://weavolution.com/group/new-york-guild-handweavers>

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

<http://nyhandweavers.org/contact>

NEED NEW SUPPLIES?

Remember to sign up for Halcyon Yarn's Guild Rewards so our group get 5% of every purchase.

<https://halcyonyarn.com/guild/>