

# New York Threads

The Newsletter of  
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next meeting – Saturday, October 31, 2020. 12 Noon

## Dr. Barbara Setsu Pickett Velvet Weaving- A World Wide Overview of the Contemporary Handweaving Process Artist

Dr. Barbara Setsu-Pickett will share her passion and extensive research on today's velvet weaving techniques in Italy, France, England, Japan, China, Turkey, India, and Uzbekistan.

Her velvet design "Unfurled," (at right) is loosely based on marbled paper patterns and an aerial view of the Grand Canal in Venice. She wove it on a 19th century manual velvet Jacquard loom at the .Fondazione Arte della Seta Lisio Firenze, Italy.

More recently, Dr. Pickett traveled to Cholapur, India and wove on renowned historian and designer Rahul Jain's velvet drawloom.

Currently she is testing her understanding of the ikat velvet process that she learned in Uzbekistan.



Dr. Pickett with her velvet, "Unfurled"

As in-person meetings are currently suspended, JOIN US ON ZOOM

Watch your email inbox for the invitation and link, which will be sent to NYGH Guild members at least one week before the program

Show & Tell..12 Noon to 1 p.m.  
Share your latest work and be inspired by others. (Details on how to participate on page 2)  
Program....1 p.m.  
Speaker followed by a Q&A

Want to borrow a book from the Guild Library? Contact Librarian Carie Kramer via email at [NYGH.info@gmail.com](mailto:NYGH.info@gmail.com)



Dr. Pickett's Frontier Velvet set-up

Dr. Pickett will also offer practical advice for those who want to try velvet weaving, including how to adapt standard weaving equipment and materials at hand using what she calls her "Frontier Velvet" set-ups--a method she has engineered to weave velvet without a manual Jacquard velvet loom.

While sheltering at home, Dr. Pickett has been experimenting with gold velvet pile on brown ground using 20/2 cotton. The spiral design uses a total of 19 shafts--15 shafts for the 15 pile blocks and 4 shafts for the 3/1 twill ground. This velvet is photographed on her Frontier Velvet setup, pictured above.



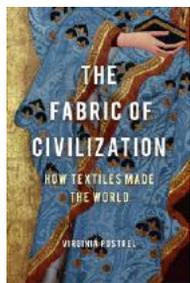
# MEMBER NEWS

## The Guild's Footprint Continues to Grow!

We welcome these new members who bring the total guild membership to 142.

Tina Bliss	Peter Houts	Helene Rude
Jamie Boyle	Vandana Jain	Christine Ryan
Gail Corbett	Susan Laing	Becky Stevens
Sandra Dudley	Johanna Li	Janelle Storesud
Margaret Gale	Elizabeth Mills	Charles
Celia Gavett	Nancy Nagle	Thompson-Shealy
		Xiao Weijing

## The Philadelphia Guild invites NYGH members to its November Program



Nov. 1, 2020, 7 p.m. via Zoom  
Virginia Postrel, speaker and author of  
***The Fabric of Civilization:  
How Textiles Made the World***

The story of humanity is the story of textiles -- as old as civilization itself. Since the first thread was spun, the need for textiles has driven technology, business, politics, and culture. Virginia Postrel is an author, columnist, and speaker.

Members: Watch your inbox for the email and link!

## Can you help?

Guild member Carol Kover is seeking a four to eight shaft loom, up to 36" width, new or used, capable of weaving tapestry as well as balanced weaves. Under consideration are Macomber's Baby Mac (workshop )or small type B and the Gilmore Gem or small standard loom. A table loom is an option if it can handle tapestry.

If you have experience with any of these possibilities or know of another, please contact [Carol via email](#).

## SHOW & TELL via Zoom

We can't touch the fabric, but we all love Show & Tell! Here's how to share your project in the online meeting.

1. **Select one item** to share
2. **Take 2-3 photos** (jpg, png) of the item  
One over-all photo plus close-up(s)  
Phone photo? Select and send 'Medium' size.
3. **Email to [NYGH.info@gmail.com](mailto:NYGH.info@gmail.com)**
  - Photos,
  - Your first and last name, and
  - Permission or not for NYGH to post to social media

**Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, Oct. 29**

Due to time constraints, online shares are limited to one item per person and to the first eight people to submit.

Photos will be assembled into a slide show and each person will show their project and experiences using these Talking Points:

- Weave structure
- Fiber(s)
- Number of shafts
- What did you learn?

## Pioneering Japanese American Artist Ruth Asawa Honored With Forever Stamps



The US Postal Service honors the life and career of Ruth Asawa with a beautiful stamp collection featuring her wire sculptures. They were released Aug. 13, 2020.



## TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES ABOUT THE HOLIDAY SALE 2020

### Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers & New York Guild of Handweavers

In response to the pandemic, the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers (PGHW) moved its 8th Annual Holiday Sale online and is collaborating with the NYGH in a Holiday Sale Catalog to be shared by both guilds. The catalog will be posted on each guild's web page and promoted through email blasts to members and friends as well as shared on social media.

The Holiday Catalog, which will launch Nov. 7, will feature the work of participating fiber artists with photos representative of their work and links to their online presence. It will remain on Guilds websites indefinitely.

**Great source for unique gifts. Tell your friends and families!**

# WEAVING BASICS

## Simply Selvedges

*First in a series*

A good selvedge rarely gets noticed, but a bad one draws the eye to every irregularity and detracts from the overall piece. And, speaking personally, creating a good selvedge can be nearly as challenging as creating the design. There are guidelines for different weave structures. Knowing them is a good foundation for weaving. This column aims to highlight basic selvedge rules for the most common weaves. This month's column begins with general guidelines, as well as those that apply to twill structures.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SELVEDGES

- Thread only one thread in each heddle
- Sley two or more warp ends per dent
- Sley the last 2-3 dents of the reed closer than the rest of the warp.  
Example: If a 15 epd reed is sleyed at 1 end per dent, sley the last two dents at 2 threads/dent
- For a wide rug, drapery, or suiting (36" or wider):  
Double sley at least three dents (or four). This will provide a strong end and help with draw-in.

### SELVEDGES for TWILLS

There is no need to add extra or different threading for the fabric edge as long as the last four warp ends include one warp threaded on each of the four shafts.

If a thread is being dropped on one or both sides of a woven twill, either:

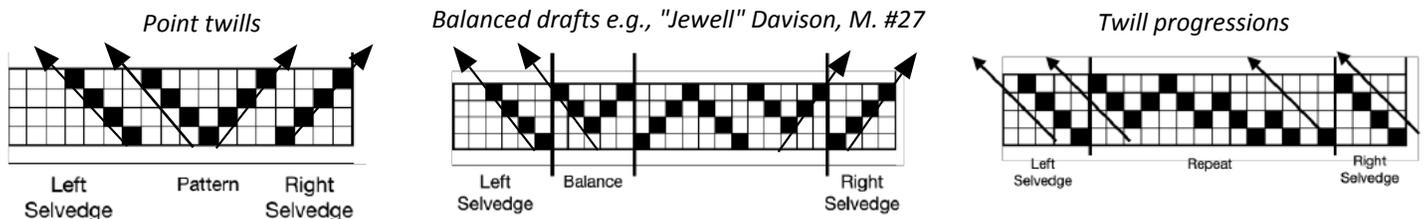
1. Begin weaving from the opposite side or
2. Cut out and drop the loose end.

To add extra threads for a selvedge, duplicate threading on the last four pattern threads--and use all four shafts.

#### Twills on Four Shafts

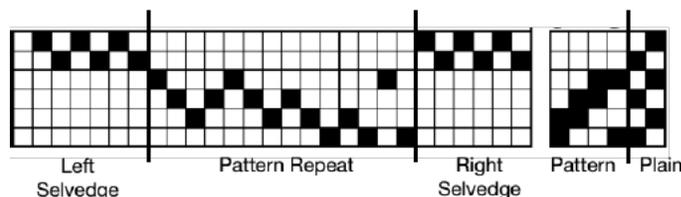
In these examples, the selvedges mirror the beginning and end threadings.

In the balanced draft example, note that five shafts were added to the end of the threading draft to balance the design.



#### Twills on More Than Four Shafts

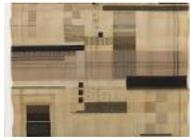
The simplest selvedge is to add two shafts for a plain weave selvedge. For example, if weaving a four-shaft pattern, set up selvedges on shafts 5 and 6.



# MUSEUMS and EXHIBITIONS

## TAKING A THREAD FOR A WALK

This show includes Anni Albers's tapestries, gouaches, screenprints and drapery material from the 1920s to the 1980s, a wall hanging by Gunta Stölzl, and two sculptures by Sheila Hicks.



*Extended through January 10, 2021*

[MOMA](#)

11 West 53 Street, NYC

## MAKING KNOWING: CRAFT in ART, 1950-2019

Explores materials, methods, and strategies of craft used over the past seven decades through more than 80 works by more than 60 visual artists.



*Through January 2021*

[Whitney Museum](#)

99 Gansevoort St., NYC

## ABOUT TIME: FASHION and DURATION

The exhibition will trace a century and a half of fashion—from 1870 to the present—along a disruptive timeline, on the occasion of The Met's 150th anniversary. Employing Henri Bergson's concept of la durée (duration), it will explore how clothes generate temporal associations that conflate past, present, and future. Virginia Woolf will serve as the "ghost narrator" of the exhibition.



*October 29, 2020—February 7, 2021*

The Met Fifth Avenue (NYC)

## KNOTTED, TORN, SCATTERED: SCULPTURE AFTER ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

Sculptures and installations by a generation of artists who saw in Pollock's visionary practice questions about scale, materials, process, and environment



*Through February 28, 2021*

[Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum](#)

1071 5th Avenue, NYC

## ROBIN KANG: MOTHERBOARD MEDITATION

Explores the connections between contemporary technology and the history of textile fabrication and manufacturing. Kang's work points to the influence that weaving technologies have had on the development of modern computing.



*Through April 23, 2021*

[Tata Innovation Center](#)

11 E Loop Rd

New York, NY 10044

## THE NATURE OF COLOR

This exhibition focuses on color's information about the natural and human worlds—and specifically, feeling, living, meaning, and making color and offers an immersive and interactive experience.



*Through August 8, 2021*

[American Museum of Natural History](#)

200 Central Park West, NYC

## Online Collections

### [MUSEUM of ART and DESIGN ONLINE COLLECTION of TEXTILES](#)

More than 2,000 objects representing 95% of the museum's collection are available online, including more than 500 fiber objects. These are both classic and contemporary works by familiar and new artists.

### [THE MUSEUM AT FIT: ONLINE COLLECTIONS](#)

Collections are organized by dates ranging from the 18th century through the 2000s

### [PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART FIBER ART ONLINE](#)

Collection of 121 textile items.

### [MUSEUM AT FIT FALL FASHION CULTURE PROGRAMS](#)

Programs are streaming live but registration is required. Upcoming events [here](#).

# NEW and NOTEWORTHY

## CONFERENCES

**October 15-18, 2020**

[New York Sheep & Wool Festival--Online](#)

Workshop Series in Rhinebeck

**June 24-27, 2021**

[MidAtlantic Fiber Association's Virtual Conference](#)

This an all-volunteer event: Can you help? Email Conference Chair [Margaret Briggs](#), who can help match you with what you like to do.

*Did you know that since NYGH members are also members of MAFA?*



### Violet Protest

Deadline Extended to Feb. 1, 2021

The Violet Protest is a public effort to send 50 hand-made textile squares to each and every member of Congress in support of core American values.

**Deadline for Finished Squares**

**Feb. 1, 2021** - for exhibition; and  
by **Aug. 1, 2021** to send to Congress.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how you can join the Violet Protest.

## CLASSES and WORKSHOPS NEARBY

[Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center](#), York Haven, Pa.

Year-round workshops and classes across a wide range of fiber arts, including weaving and spinning. [Retail store](#) onsite.

[Tatter](#), 505 Carroll Street Suite 2B, Brooklyn, NY

Main emphasis on stitchery, but some classes on dyeing and spinning.

[Textile Arts Center](#) *Temporarily closed*

Manhattan: 26 W. 8th St., NYC, 10011

Brooklyn: 505 Carroll St., Brooklyn. 11515

[Vävstuga Weaving School](#), Shelburne Mass.

Workshops and classes in the tradition of Swedish weaving schools. *Temporarily closed for in person classes, but 8 virtual lessons with videos are available.*

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

**True Colors: World Masters of Natural Dyes & Pigments**

(Revised & Updated)

by *Keith Recker*

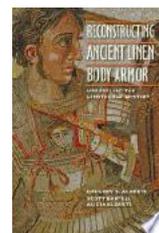
True Colors presents the work and vision of twenty-six natural dye artists from around the world, opening a window into their culture, their lives, and the power of color.



**Reconstructing Ancient Linen Body Armor: Unraveling the Linothorax Mystery**

by *Alicia Aldrete, Gregory S. Aldrete, and Scott Bartell*

Alexander the Great led one of the most successful armies in history and conquered nearly the entirety of the known world while wearing armor made of cloth. How is that possible?



**Talking Textiles: GENERATION 2020**

This fifth issue of the magazine is dedicated to the Great Generation of 2020. Divided into emerging trends and filled with work by global graduates from international design institutions, this is an expansive gathering of contemporary textile talent.



**Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy**

by Courtney White and Rebecca Burgess

A new "farm-to-closet" vision for the clothes we wear--by a leader in the movement for local textile economies



## RESOURCES

[Handwoven magazine](#)

Digital @\$24.99/year

Digital PDF issues (5), unlimited access to previous issues, subscriber only premium articles, and a weekly newsletter

All Access @\$99.99/year

Adds unlimited access to 25+ video workshops, 80+ streaming videos, and downloads from the WIF library.

# RESOURCES

## October 31, 2020 **Online Meeting**

*Velvet Weaving: A Worldwide Overview of Contemporary Hand Weaving Practice*

Barbara Setsu Pickett

## December 5, 2020 **Online Meeting**

*Make and Take Crafts & Holiday Party*

## January 30, 2021 **Online Meeting**

*Texture in the Art of Anni and Josef Albers*

Fritz Horstman

## February 27, 2021 **Online Meeting**

*The Weaving Culture of Sweden*

Sally Orgren

## March 20, 2021 **Online Meeting**

*Split-shed Tied Beiderwand*

Deborah Silver

## April, 24, 2021 **Online Meeting**

*Artworks*

Fuyuko Matsubara0.

## WEAVING SUPPLIES NEARBY

### Manhattan

[Loop of the Loom](#)

*Online sales only*

[School Products Yarn](#)

*Open for business*

13 E. 37th St, 6th Floor

NYC, 10016

### Brooklyn

[Loop of the Loom](#)

*Online sales only*

[Woolyn](#)

*Online sales only*

### [Silk City Fibers](#)

Now open for retail sales and a discount to NYGH members!

Silk City fibers, a long time wholesale supplier of a wide range of fine weaving yarns in alpaca, bamboo, cotton, chenille, merino and rayon blends, now offers sales direct to the public.

**Guild members can receive a 10% discount on all regularly priced items now through August 31, 2021 by entering [promo code 2021125](#).** To order:

Phone 1-800-899-7455 or  
Email [service@silkcityfibers.com](mailto:service@silkcityfibers.com)

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Questions or information to share?

Contact us at [NYGH.info@gmail.com](mailto:NYGH.info@gmail.com)

President: Carol Steuer

Vice President: Carie Kramer

Secretary: Ria Koopsman

Treasurer: Vicki Aspenberg

Newsletter Editor: Charlene Marietti

Membership: Terry Henley

Membership questions: [NYGH.membership@gmail.com](mailto:NYGH.membership@gmail.com)

Programs: Gail Gondek

Publicity: Gigi Matthews

Librarian: Carie Kramer

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Ravelry](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[Weavolution](#)

## NEED SUPPLIES?

Halcyon and The Woolery reward guilds 5% of every purchase made by members. To take advantage:

Sign up for Guild Rewards at [Halcyon Yarn](#).

Use this direct link to access the automated reward program when purchasing at [The Woolery](#)