



Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

NEWSLETTER

Volume III Issue 08

May 2008

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From The President's Desk—

Shirley Conaway



I've been a devoted fan of *Fiberworks* for many years, but being rather new to the fiber arts, I'm always curious to see what's going on elsewhere. Despite the many benefits of living in a smaller metropolitan area, one frustration is missing out on major fiber shows. For me, however, it's been a "very good year!" I've managed to see three in the last several months, the most recent being *Pricked: Extreme Embroidery*, which I caught on a recent visit to New York's Museum of Art and Design. *Pricked* is the second in a series organized by the museum to illustrate the radical new ways traditional handcrafts are being employed by contemporary artists. The first, *Radical Lace and Subversive Knitting*, is now on tour, currently at Indiana State University in Indianapolis, through August 24th.

Forty-eight international artists, both male and female, are featured in *Pricked*, with works reflecting themes ranging from the personal, ancestral, social, and political, to the downright unfathomable. In this last category, I thought, was the most beautiful and technically accomplished, yet off-putting work in the

show. "Death of a Blind Philosopher," by Angelo Filomeno, features a skeleton stitched on silk, with a blood-red embroidered plume of flowers, leaves, flies and cockroaches spewing from his eye sockets. The embroidery is wonderfully skilled. For me, the most moving works were 'Spreckley I' and "Lumley", by London artist Paddy Hartley. Reflecting his research into facial reconstruction pioneered for seriously disfigured World War I soldiers, Hartley displays three mannequins wearing reconstructed vintage uniforms digitally and hand-embroidered with text from their writings. 2nd Lieutenant Spreckley lost his entire nose in a grenade attack. A new nose, constructed from rib cartilage, was successfully grafted to his face. On lighter note, my favorite works were the humorous ones. Borrowing thirteen familiar figures from classic paintings, and embroidering them in Leonardo's iconic pose behind a long table, Houston artist Cindy Hickok's "Fast Supper" comments on our modern food habits, featuring a meal of hot dogs and potato salad.

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Deadline for newsletter articles is the 4th Thurs. of each month. Email to editor@fiberartsok.org or call 405-605-7516.

FAO MEETING LOCATION & TIME

FAO will meet at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, 3400 NW 36th, OKC. Located east of N Portland on the south side of NW 36th near I-44.

Date: May 8, 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00

May Program: by Andrea Gardner

We are in store for another great program this month that will be presented by one of our talented new members, Andrea Gardner.

Come learn the basics of coil



basketry using inexpensive materials and a simple technique. There will be a live demonstration by Andrea and a show-and-tell of some of her completed coil baskets.



Look What You Can Find At The Library.....

by Linda Temple

As a self-confessed book-aholic and a perpetual student of textiles, I'm also compelled to share my discoveries.

The other day, I noticed a book in the Metro Library System titled *Textiles Today: a global survey of trends and traditions*. It sounded interesting and didn't disappoint—how could I resist admiring a tent made of solar-powered fabric? thread that ties itself in a knot? a house in a pocket?

A beautiful, full-color coffee table book (381 illustrations), *Textiles Today* primarily addresses textiles for the 21st century—how scientists are using old and new fibers to create the most amazing structures, and how artists are using and re-using old and new fibers and fabrics to create outstanding artistic pieces.

Textile tiles, inspired by fish scales, are being used to build modular partitions that are easy to assemble and disassemble to create enclosures. An "intelligent" suture has been developed that can tie itself into a knot within 20 seconds when exposed to a certain temperature. Spray-on fabrics actually let you control the thickness of the fabric you use to "make" your clothes. A fabric keyboard is made with five layers of touch-sensitive fabric. Martin Ruiz de Azua has designed a house that weighs only 200 grams, can be carried in the pocket, and inflates with body heat (presumably not while in your pocket). The Portable Light Project (www.portablelight.org), in consultation with the Huichol community in the Mexican Sierra Madre mountains, has developed an adaptable, solar-powered fabric that can be used for reading, cooking, and for small community tents.

More familiar to most of us is the information about ecological fabrics—how the growth and production of familiar natural fibers are being re-vamped for ecological safety and for use in non-traditional ways. *ClimateX Lifecycle*, made from ramie and wool, is not only biodegradable, but the "waste material from weaving can be converted into felt to be used as non-wovens for upholstery work or as a mulch in the garden."

As always, fiber artists around the world continue to be inspired by old/traditional patterns in new ways that honor the influence of their culture. However, this doesn't preclude the creation of new patterns and designs and structures that reflect the vast world of possibilities in the artistic use of fiber.

The introduction of this book gives a good summary:

"...there is also another side of innovation that involves responding intelligently to the textiles with which we live, an approach that can involve addressing some of the consequences and environmental impacts of more than two centuries of industrial innovation and international trade. Thus inevitably our relationship with textiles today is not exclusively forward looking, but means looking sideways, to other parts of the world, and also behind us to the legacy of the import and export of ideas, patterns, fabrics and garment types over time."

Textiles Today: a global survey of trends and traditions, by Chloe Colchester (New York: Thames and Hudson, 2007), is available at your MLS public library.

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If you subscribe to any of the common fiber art or craft magazines, you've probably seen pictures and reviews of the exhibit. For more information, additional reviews and good pictures go to the tiny URL that I created at <http://tinyurl.com/2359q2>.

At April's lively meeting we had 11 members and 5 guests, one of whom became a member. Welcome, Karen Sullivan of Norman! Many thanks to Sara Braden for her fascinating program. We began plans for our June potluck and received a generous offer to host, as well as a backup.

It's time to look toward next year! The nominating committee has been hard at work to put together a slate of officers. As of now, we still have openings for **Fiberworks Chair** and **Vice President(s)**. The office of vice president is usually filled by two people who work together to plan programs for our meetings. We already have a nice list of possible programs suggested by members, so half of the work is done! I did this job with a partner for two years and found it fun to make contact with so many talented presenters. There are lots of members willing to supply ideas and information, so it was never a struggle. Do think about contacting Kay Moore and volunteering for this office!

FIBERWORKS 2008

Calendar of Events

Submit Entries—May 30–31, 12-4 pm, IAO

Juring Process—June 3

Lecture—June 4, 7-8:30pm, Belle Isle Library,
5501 N. Villa, OKC

Critique Night—June 5 (Thur.) 7-9pm, IAO

Opening Reception—June 6 (Fri.) 6-8pm, IAO

Pickup Pieces—June 28 (Sat.) 10am-2pm, IAO

Fiberworks 2008— On display at the IAO Gal-
lery, 811 N. Broadway, OKC, June 6-27.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Stephanie will have a sign-up sheet at the May Meeting for Fiberworks Volunteers to help accept and return entries.

Accepting Entries May 30—31 12-4pm

Returning Entries after the Critique and after the Opening Reception on June 5—6

Call Stephanie at 348-6830 to volunteer

The Fiberworks 2008 Prospectus is available at <http://www.fiberartistsok.org>

FIBERWORKS 2008 REPORT

Fiberworks 2008 is drawing near! We will be celebrating our 30th year and you will be able to read about it in the May issue of the *OKC Downtown Magazine* so don't miss it.

Invitational postcards will be in the mail after the first week of May. Please invite all your family and friends to attend the exhibit and to sign the two guest books (for IAO and FAO) that will be available at the front of the gallery. This is very important! The number of viewers will validate the importance of our exhibit to our sponsor, the Oklahoma Arts Council. They provide the grant money that makes Fiberworks possible. We couldn't have an exhibit without the help of the Oklahoma Arts Council, the IAO Gallery, and all the generous donors for the awards.

Speaking of awards, we have raised a little over \$4000 this year that will be awarded to talented Oklahoma artists. The Best of Show entry will receive \$1000 and the remainder will be awarded to Juror's Choice, Joe Handley Award for weaving, Most Innovative, many General Awards of Merit, Handweavers Guild of America, and Interweave Press.

Please plan to attend the free lecture on Wednesday, June 4th at the Belle Isle Library at 7:00 pm. Our juror, Erica Spitzer Rasmussen, will be showing slides

and sharing her story about her development of sculptural and wearable works. In addition to addressing the conceptual aspects of her work, she will also discuss embellishing techniques with non-archival media.

Don't forget we have changed the schedule this year and the critique will be on a Thursday night instead of the usual Friday night (see Calendar of Events above). The juror will talk about each of the pieces she selected for the show so besides being educational it is also insightful. This event is what makes Fiberworks unique and you can attend whether you enter the show or not.

Opening Night will be on Friday, June 6th so let's show our support by attending. This will be a good time to mix and mingle with the juror and all the participating artists. The awards ceremony will begin at 7:00 that night and there will be good food to eat. It will be an enjoyable evening so bring your friends and family.

Stephanie is in charge of accepting and returning entries and she can always use volunteers so please contact her at 348-6830 to sign up. A lot of work goes into putting on this exhibit so if you have time to spare the first week in June and would like to help call Karen and give her your contact information at 947-4730.

By Kay Moore

SHOW AND TELL FROM THE APRIL MEETING



Sara presenting the program on recycled yarn. If you missed the meeting I'll bet you can't guess what the huge pot is used for!



Sara Braden showing us how to remove seams from silk sweat-



Marie Miller brought one of her beautiful embroideries of nature.



Joan Galbraith—purple woven fluffy boa!



J.D. Stone with her inkle woven bracelets.



Shirley Conaway and her coat made with recycled felted sweaters.

STEPHANIE GRUBBS' "KNOTTING" WORKSHOP

Stephanie Grubbs, a founding member of FAO (when it was HLO), and an award-winning fiber artist, will lead a workshop, "Knot Your Mother's Knotting" on Saturday, October 4. It will be from 9am-1pm at the Belle Isle Library. Most of us know her amazing work in felt, paper and knotting. This is your opportunity to learn a beautiful technique that will surely enhance your work or just trigger new ideas.

The workshop is limited to 10-12 people, and it is filling up.

Please email Sue Moss Sullivan to hold your place. The cost is \$40.00 plus supplies. Once your place is confirmed, I will advise you how to pay, etc.

There will be more later as we finalize details. So, check your calendar and email me if you want to join us. We always have a good time!

Sue Moss Sullivan

suemoss2000@swbell.net



Grounded is collaborative effort featuring an exhibit of photo-fiber art by **Elia Woods** and an outdoor living art environment.

The exhibit will be held at the Individual Artists of Oklahoma gallery, 811 N.

Broadway, OKC, May 2-30, 2008. Opening reception at IAO, Sat., May 17, 6-9 pm.

The Outdoor Celebration will be at the Central Park Community Gardens at NW 31 and Shartel in OKC.

Updates will be posted at: <http://www.eliawoods.com>

We invite you to attend the **14th Annual Route 66 Fiber Rendezvous**, Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 111, 101 E. 5th Edmond, OK. The event is sponsored by the Log Cabin Spinners and it will feature fleece to fabric demonstration by spinners and weavers. Come and enjoy fiber related events and vendors. For more information please contact: Janice Robinson 405-771-2636.

The Paseo Arts District in Oklahoma City will host the annual **Paseo Arts Festival on Memorial Day Weekend**. Seventy-five artists will have their fine art on display in tents along the Paseo. There will be painting, pottery and jewelry, along with sculpture, wood working and wearable art.

Memorial Day Weekend, May 24, 25, 26, 2008. The festival hours will be Saturday & Sunday from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. and Monday from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Paseo is located between NW 30th and Dewey and N.W. 28th and Walker in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

While you are there buying art be sure and visit **Sue Moss Sullivan** in Studio Six.

Some of you may have seen the ads on TV by the Chickasaw Nation where they interview tribal members. One of these ads feature **Margaret Roach Wheeler** who was the **1999 Fiberworks Juror**. It's a wonderful ad which shows her weaving while discussing her heritage & philosophy about weaving and the arts. You can see her beautiful work on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/4qsnbk>



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Hard Twist. Juried exhibit. No entry fee but admin. Fee paid on acceptance. **Deadline May 31**. The Gladstone Hotel's 3rd annual show of textile-based art

calls for installations and wall-hung works that approach fiber with twist in mind. The show will run Nov. 7, 08—Jan 4, 09. Entries may be submitted by email or surface mail. For information email

chrism@gladstonehotel.com; <http://www.gladstonehotel.com>

2008 National Small Art Quilt Works Exhibition. Entry fee. Awards. **Deadline June 7**. The Main Street Gallery is seeking submissions from fiber artists residing in the U.S. and eighteen years of age and older for exhibit July 25—August 31. Work may not be larger than 16" x 20". All artwork must be for sale. Gallery commission is 40% of retail price. For more information and prospectus send SASE to The Main Street Gallery, 105 Main St. PO Box 161, Groton, NY 13073. maingal@localnet.com; <http://www.mainstreetgal.com/>

Fiber Arts Celebration 2008. Cash awards. Catalog. Entry fee. Juried exhibit. **Deadline July 1**. Art-

ists are invited to enter up to three pieces. Entries must have been completed on or after Jan 1, 2006. A maximum of two pieces per artists will be selected for exhibit. All submissions must be digital images in JPEG format on a CD, which will not be returned. Juror will select the pieces from images of work for consideration. To submit, send CD to Escondido Arts Partnership, 142 W. Grand Ave., Escondido, CA 92025. <http://www.escondidoarts.org/>

Blue Ridge Handweaving Show. Cash awards. Entry fee. Juried exhibit. **Deadline August 18**. Biennial show encouraging and supporting both amateur and professional handloom weavers. Entries must be handwoven and completed within the last two years. For more information and prospectus. Ann Mullican, Blue Ridge Handweaving Show, PO Box 223, Flat Rock, NC 28731. email wncfg@main.nc.us or download prospectus at <http://www.wncfhg.org/>

Paseo Fine Craft Festival and Plein-Air Painting, in Oklahoma City, sponsored by the Paseo Art Association will be **October 11th & 12th**. Call Lori Oden, PAA Director, at 405-525-2688 to receive a prospectus. Check out <http://www.thepaseo.com/> for information on The Paseo Arts District.



Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

C/o Dorothy Dinsmoor

2613 Windmill Road

Edmond, Ok 73013

FAO Membership Dues run from September—August each year. Dues are \$20.00, please make checks payable to Fiber Artists of Oklahoma and mail to Dorothy Dinsmoor, 2613 Windmill Rd., Edmond, OK 73013. For questions call 405-348-4666.

We Are On The Web!

<http://www.fiberartistsok.org>

ABOUT US:

Fiber Artists of Oklahoma (FAO) is made up of individuals interested in sharing knowledge and promoting appreciation of all aspects of fiber art, including weaving, spinning, embroidery, basketry, felting, papermaking, dyeing, rug hooking, lace-making, and quilting. Skill levels of members range from novice to expert, with some members experimenting as hobbyists, and others working as professionals.

Members of FAO participate in various activities during the year to encourage, support, and inform persons interested in fiber art. The organization

promotes **Fiberworks**, a major juried fiber art show featuring Oklahoma artists. Held each year, Fiberworks is now a nationally respected fiber show.

Fiber Artists of Oklahoma was formerly the Handweavers League of Oklahoma, the name chosen in 1976 by a group of hand weavers who first met in Norman, Oklahoma. Officers were elected, by-laws were written, and the first newsletter was published. In 1984 the group began meeting in Oklahoma City and became a statewide organization. A Certificate of Incorporation to become a non-profit [(501(c) (3)] group was filed and approved in 1985. In 1978, the organization initiated Fiberworks , a major juried fiber art show that has been held each year since. The Handweavers League was renamed Fiber Artists of Oklahoma in 2006 to better reflect the broader focus of the organization.

Fiber Artists of Oklahoma meets the second Thursday of each month from September through November and January through June. All meetings with the exception of the June Potluck dinner meeting are at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK. Meeting time is 7:00 pm, and all interested persons are invited to attend.