



Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

# NEWSLETTER

Volume VI Issue 02

October 2010

### FAO Officers

**President:**

Stephanie Grubbs

**Program Coordinator:**

Amelia Daws  
Shirley Conaway

**Treasure:**

Dorothy Dinsmoor

**Newsletter Editor:**

Kay Moore

**Fiberworks Chairperson:**

Jean Ann Fausser-Chair  
Kate Kline-Co Chair

**Historian:**

Stephanie Grubbs

**Membership:**

Barbara Klein

**Tulsa FAO Committee:**

Kate Kline  
Janet Shipley Hawks  
Jean Ann Fausser  
Sharyl Landis

## From The President's Desk— Stephanie Grubbs



Welcome to all our new members. Since I am Historian, an office I qualify for only by being the oldest member, as well as President; I am going to use this space to pass on a little history.

FAO began almost 40 years ago as the Norman Weavers' Study Group. When I moved to the Norman area and inquired at The Firehouse Art Center, I was directed to this group started by Ione Unruh, Kate Weinheimer and Rachel Valliere. They all taught weaving at the Firehouse and their discussion group was intensely interesting to me, a new weaver. Both Ione and Kate moved away a few years later, but yes, this was the Rachel that the Rachel Valiere Weaving award is given in honor of in Fiberworks. Rachel was greatly loved in our group for her eccentric personality and expertise in weaving. She grew up in Vermont and never lost her accent. She never gave her name when she

called, but you always knew it was her. When I first came, she had cancer and had to cancel the class I was going to take, but she beat it and lived for many more years. She rode with me to meetings in Oklahoma City for years and I learned so much from her. She vowed after having cancer to never wash another dish and I don't believe she did. She always told us that she asked her husband-to-be to give her a loom instead of a ring. I recently heard a new Rachel story. Her neighbors weren't happy that she raised johnson grass in her yard to add to her weavings.

Norman Weavers' Study Group met in homes for several years and we showed our work and demonstrated weaving at The Firehouse and Norman Library. Next month I will tell you how we became Handweavers' League of Oklahoma. See you at the next meeting!

### FAO MEETINGS:

#### Oklahoma City

**Date:** Thurs, Oct. 14th

**Time:** 7:00pm to 8:45pm

**Location:** Belle Isle Library,  
5501 N Villa, OKC.

#### Tulsa

**Date:** Tue, Oct. 12th

**Time:** 6:00pm to 8:00pm

**Location:** All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa.



## Membership Report by Barbara Kline

It looks like we have about 43 members, new and renewed. That is pretty good, but keep those checks coming! Here are the new folks; once again Tulsa is doing some great recruiting. A couple of us in OKC were discussing how much we missed the monthly gatherings, so it will be great to see everyone as the season progresses.

New & renewed members.

Colleen Bouchard, Norman

H. Susan Hill, Ponca City

Judy Anderson, Catoosa

Lynn Rivers, Tulsa

## OKC OCTOBER PROGRAM - Lisa Sorrell Custom Boots

Many of us dream of finding our "nitch" doing something that we love to do and that we're really good at. For our October program, we're very fortunate to have Lisa Sorrell, who seems to have stumbled unexpectedly into just such a life. Her custom-designed boots, crafted in her shop in Guthrie, have won numerous awards and grace the feet of celebrities. In addition to being featured in numerous publications, her unique work has been featured in numerous exhibits, including

the *Craft in America* exhibit at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Center two years ago. Lisa will tell us her unlikely story and show us how she works her special magic on leather. She will also bring tools and materials, so that some of us will have an opportunity to try some of her techniques.

Shirley Conaway

## TULSA NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

### Announcements:

At the Vision Makers' Show the juror said there is no distinction between craft and art. It's all considered art now.

Transitions Show open October 7 at All Souls Unitarian Church. Kate Kline is in this show and it is open for six weeks.

The group called Tulsa Modern Quilters in a national group that started in CA.

Candice Kenyon will be teaching on Saturday, October 30 in Pryor, OK.

Playdate will be at Waterworks on the third Saturday of every month starting this Saturday, Sept. 18. It's \$10, bring your lunch and lasts from 10am - 2pm.



Jan Hawks will be teaching at the Green Country Quilt Guild on October 22 and at the Quilt Sampler on Nov. 6.

Kate Kline and Sally Bachman are teaching several classes this fall at Waterworks.

### Show and Tell:

Candice Kenyon - brought a painting to show that she got at the Salvation Army store on Peoria to use as inspiration for her next fabric piece.

Peggy Spence - brought 2 examples of pieces she made in classes in Rosemont Chicago sponsored by Cloth, Paper & Scissors - working larger than life on large canvas

Rita Barnhart - brought a shirt she made out of died cotton and several silk scarves she died.

Doreen Williams - elf doll with little faces in the gourd.

### Speaker - Suzanne Anderson

Suzanne designs clothing - she told us her history - She said she was meant to do this because her Mother designed clothing and her Grandmother designed hats.

She showed several examples of her designs and everyone was thrilled to see and touch them.

She will be teaching a beginning sewing class on October 15 - 18.

Sharyl Landis

# BOOK REVIEW BY SHIRLEY CONAWAY

## Book Features Small Tapestry-Weaving Projects for Children and Novice Weavers

### **WEAVING** with Yarn & Beads... Together! *Creative Projects for Your Individual Style*



Rebecca L. Smith

*Weaving with Yarn & Beads . . . Together!*, by Rebecca L. Smith

2009. 67 pages

While wandering through the vendor hall at Convergence in July, I admired some small woven pouches on display and, after speaking with the vendor, ended in buying her book. In an age where clear, well-illustrated instructions are all too often missing (take DVRs and my current cell phone, for example), *Weaving with Yarn & Beads . . . Together!: Creative Projects for Your Individual Style* is a rare find. Tapestry weaver Rebecca L. Smith presents a number of beautiful and varied small projects, each incorporating both fiber and bead weaving. That combination is what makes the projects unique, but what also stands out are the very thorough and well-illustrated instructions. Novice weavers, even pre-adolescent children, will find these beginning tapestry projects so well-explained as to make them very do-able. With the help of an adult, a child could proudly complete these little

purses for gifts. In addition, beginning to intermediate weavers who desire to move out of the straight-line grid will find these small, visually arresting projects a good jumping-off point into tapestry.

The author presents three color-illustrated pouch and purse projects, each taking the reader to a higher skill level, from plain weave to eccentric weft (creating curved lines). Each project is designed for creative freedom and personalization. The author begins with several short chapters on looms; appropriate yarn and bead sizes; and weaving and bead-weaving basics. She takes the reader through every step, including dressing a tapestry loom, weaving a header, butterflying weft yarn, and the technique for using a tapestry bobbin. All terms are clearly defined. With the excellent large diagrams and black and white photos that accompany the very thorough instructions, it is difficult to imagine how one would go wrong. The careful, step-by-step illustrated instructions continue through each of the three projects, ending with a discussion of finishing techniques.

Although Smith has developed “Loom in a Tube,” a small portable metal loom specifically designed for this type of weaving, (under \$100.00) she states that “any floor loom, table loom or rigid heddle loom would work,” as long as it provides a way to control warp tension and to create two sheds. *Weaving with Yarn & Beads . . . Together!* can be purchased at [www.loominatube.com](http://www.loominatube.com).

Smith’s eye-catching tapestries and other work can be seen at [www.rebeccasmithtapestries.com](http://www.rebeccasmithtapestries.com).

Shirley Conaway



**Form, Not Function:  
Quilt Art at the Carnegie,**  
New Albany, IN. Exhibit of  
Contemporary Art Quilts.  
**Deadline:** October 16, 2010  
(Postmark) or (Online).  
**Exhibit Date:** January 7 -  
March 5, 2011. For more infor-  
mation and to download prospectus visit their web-  
site. [http://www.carnegiecenter.org/exhibit\\_form.html](http://www.carnegiecenter.org/exhibit_form.html)

Please see our **FAO Blog** for a call for emerging art-  
ists born on January 1, 1972 or more recently. [http://  
fiberartistsok.org/blog/?p=337](http://fiberartistsok.org/blog/?p=337)



**Note from Sue Moss Sulli-  
van**—A friend of mine,  
Linda Zahn, donated a beau-  
tiful 48" 4 harness Loom-  
Craft loom to the Weaving  
Studio at City Arts. She  
bought it many years ago,  
did some weaving then, but

her life changed and it sat unused for many years.  
She remembered I had 'weaving connections' and  
called me to help her find it a worthy home. Nancy  
Peterson gratefully accepted it. It came with a won-  
derful bench, warping board and other supplies.  
Because of Linda's generosity, the Weaving Studio  
is blessed.

## Mabee-Gerrer Musuem of Art

### Andean Dreamers

### Pre-Columbian Inca Textiles

**Lecture and Reception: 7:00 pm, Friday, October 8**

*Andean Weaving: A Binding of Culture and Craft*

by Henry Moy, Director of the Museum of the Red River

Textiles played an important role in Andean society. Textile arts were extremely labor intensive and required extraordinary skill. A single tunic might be made from 6 to 9 miles of different colored thread. Textiles were valued more than gold or silver, and signified the wearer's high social status and political power. The Incas gave textiles as the highest form of tribute. Sacred fabrics were also for important persons who were buried and wrapped in elaborately woven and embroidered mummy bundles and were meant to accompany the wearer to the next world. Textiles, from their fragile nature, are often not available for examination and study. This rare look at such fragile and delicate materials opens up a door to the Andean society that most people do not have the chance to see.

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is located in the campus of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

<http://www.mgmoa.org/>

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FAO yearly membership starts in August so it's **time** to renew. Please send your 2010 membership dues of \$20.00 to our Membership Director:

Barbara Klein, 6904 N. Grove Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73132

The membership forms are available to print from our website.

Please, make checks payable to FAO.

#### FAO Treasurer's Report



We received our grant of \$2925.00 for Fiber-works.

Current Balance—\$7461.30

## OKLAHOMA : Call for Entries and/or Events

**Event:** FiberWorks 2011

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juried Fiber Exhibition for Oklahoma Fiber Artists

**Dates:** Opens June 3, 2011; closes June 18, 2011

**Location:** Living Arts of Tulsa

307 E. Brady

Tulsa, OK

**Eligibility:** Current Residents of Oklahoma

**Media:** Original works primarily constructed of fiber--weaving, needlework, basketry, quilting, soft sculpture, paper, knitting, crocheting, and felt

**Deadline:** Juried from actual work, accepted Sunday May 29 and Monday  
May 30

**Juror:** Jane Dunnewold

**Sponsor:** Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

Prospectus and Information available: [www.fiberartistsok.org](http://www.fiberartistsok.org)

For more information: [fiberworks@fiberartistsok.org](mailto:fiberworks@fiberartistsok.org) or

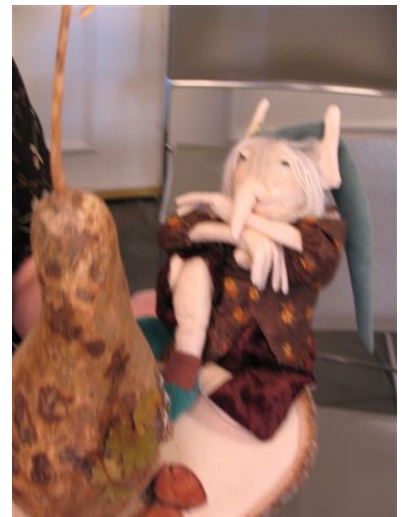
Contact for this call for entry: Pat Brant [pbrant3@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrant3@hotmail.com)



Candace Kenyon-Dove with painting that she plans on interpreting into fabric.



Peggy Spence Fry with painted cloth.



Doreen Williams doll sculpture.

## SHOW AND SHARE FROM TULSA MEMBERS



## 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 Barbara Klein, 6904 N. Grove Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73132. For questions call 405-728-2200.

### *We Are On The Web!*

<http://www.fiberartistsok.org>

<http://fiberartistsok.org/blog/>

## 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 in Oklahoma City the second Thursday and in Tulsa the second Tuesday 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 Belle Isle Library, 5501 N. Villa, Okla. City at 7:00pm or the All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa at 6:00pm unless otherwise notified.**