



Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

NEWSLETTER

Volume VI Issue 04

January 2011

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Amelia Daws
Shirley Conaway

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Sharyl Landis

From The President's Desk— Stephanie Grubbs



For the past several months I have written about the history of FAO. I had reached 1978, the year we first presented a show of fiber art called Fiberworks. I have asked Sue Moss Sullivan to write a history of Fiberworks for this month's newsletter. She is the person most knowledgeable, as she is the only one who has worked on the Fiberworks committee for all 32 years. I have entered work in the show every year, but I did not work on the committee until the third or fourth year. We have a great debt to all our members who served as Chairwomen of the Fiberworks Committee, several for two or more years. I do not know how many times Sue served in that role, but she has also supervised the hanging of the exhibit every year. She has worked through her son's knee injury and surgery and twice during her own illness and sur-

gery. We also can be grateful to the thousands of volunteer hours which have been given over the years by members and to our Tulsa friends who are taking the burden this year.
Stephanie



Shirley Conaway and Stephanie Grubbs working on paper flowers at the November meeting.

FAO MEETINGS:

Oklahoma City

Date: Thurs, Jan. 13th

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

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

Tulsa

Date: Tue, Jan. 11th

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

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



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The latest membership list, with 66 names, is attached with this newsletter.

Everyone that didn't get in a renewal by November got an e-mail reminding them, so we have to assume this is our current core. If you see a name missing, please give her a gentle reminder:

Membership runs from September through August. Joining or renewing during Fiber Works (which is June) takes you to the following year. I hope everyone had a good Holiday period and we'll see you back in January.

Barbara Klein

HISTORY OF FIBERWORKS By Sue Moss Sullivan

Our members certainly know about Fiberworks, FAO's signature exhibit, but many don't know the history of the show, how it began and how it has evolved. There are a few of us who have been there since the beginning: Stephanie Grubbs, Dorothy Dinsmoor, Linda Temple, Pam Husky, and me, Sue Moss Sullivan. Our memories may differ, so I hope they forgive any errors I make as I recount the history. I do know we all agree it has been a great ride, even with the bumps and bruises. FAO should have nothing but pride in a great state-wide juried art exhibit.

In about 1978, a group of us wanted to showcase work by Oklahoma artists working in fiber, both traditional and innovative work. We had met Robin Black, exhibits coordinator at Omniplex, now named Science Museum Oklahoma. Robin understood and appreciated the trend of fiber as art and as part of art history and

offered our fiber group (then known as HLO) a chance to exhibit. After lots of planning, we decided to open the show to anyone who wanted to submit work, rather than having a juried show. We did this to encourage any Oklahoman working in fiber to enter work without fear of rejection. It was a success and opened Oklahoman's eyes to fiber.

After several years, the Kirkpatrick Gallery opened on the second floor of Omniplex, and we decided to move the show there, but had to make the decision to change to a juried show, due to the smaller gallery space. This was not an easy decision because we didn't want to exclude anyone, but gradually this change was accepted. We moved to the larger West Gallery in Omniplex and appreciated the larger space. When Omniplex's mission changed, we had to find other venues. We moved to City Arts Center for a few years, then to IAO Gallery, for the

last 3 years. We plan to return to IAO in 2012.

We are proud that our jurors have always come from outside Oklahoma to avoid prejudice and each has a well-deserved reputation in the national fiber arts community. All come from a strong fiber background and education. Many are university professors; many are published; all are well-known for their own work. Some of you may be recalling interesting stories about many of them as you read this, but overall, we have had positive experiences. Until a few years ago, we managed to even hold a work-

shop during the jurying week, but that became very complicated and we elected to eliminate them.

Fiberworks is known for other special events during the exhibition run. We invite the juror to show a piece of his/her own work to show viewers the credible work they do. We also have a juror's critique and lecture. I don't

know of another juried show in the state with this level of educational opportunities as part of the show. Even our prospectus outshines all others. We have done an excellent job of showcasing fiber art to all of Oklahoma.

I hope each member is impressed that the small group now known as Fiber Artists of Oklahoma has maintained a strong exhibit for Oklahoma artists for 33 years. With all the hard work, often problems and even quirky personalities, Fiberworks has earned a great national reputation for a strong exhibit. I thank everyone for all their hard work over the years. It just keeps getting better and I know our new move to Tulsa in 2011 will add another exciting chapter to our on-going novel.

Get busy on your entries!!!



FAO PROGRAM NEWS FOR OKLAHOMA CITY

Your kids or grandkids may have used polymer clay (often called by its brand names Sculpey or Fimo) for their school projects. But polymer clay isn't just for kids; it's an artistic medium all its own, and it's perfect in mixed media applications. Angela Mabray will be giving us a basic overview of the polymer clay process, from conditioning the clay to baking. Then she'll show examples of some of the many things possible with polymer clay.

Angela has been working with polymer clay about 10 years and recently co-authored the just-

published book, *Polymer Clay 101* (www.polyclay101.com). She is a founding member of the Central Oklahoma Polymer Clay Guild and the International Polymer Clay Association. Her polymer clay projects have appeared in *Polymer CAFE*, on HGTV's *That's Clever* show, and on many blogs. She writes about polymer clay on her nationally known and highly respected blog, www.craftygoat.com.

By Shirley Conaway



FAO MEMBER NEWS:

Would you please save your worn-out needles (both machine and hand) and straight pins for me, **Natalie Friedman**? It's OK if they're bent or broken. I'm planning to do a piece based on the Japanese tradition of hari-kuyo. This is an annual festival day when old needles and pins are brought to a shrine as a memorial to thank them for their service. I want to honor that sentiment in a piece of art work. You can contact me at artlover@cox.net. Thank you!

Check out the latest *Fiberarts Magazine*. There is an article about one of our new members, **Lisa Sorrell**, on the back page about her custom made boots. Congratulations Lisa!

PHOTOS FROM OKC'S NOVEMBER MEETING





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.

«Name»

«Address»

«City», «St» «Zip»

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.