



Fiber Artists of Oklahoma

NEWSLETTER

Volume III Issue 05

February 2008

FAO Officers

President:

Shirley Conaway

Vice Presidents:

Dawne Pyles

Elia Woods

Treasure:

Dorothy Dinsmoor

Newsletter Editor:

Kay Moore

Historian:

Stephanie Grubbs

Fiberworks Chairman

Karen Collier

From The President's Desk— Shirley Conaway



Ever since we began to clothe ourselves and to make tools, fiber has served us in a primarily functional role; yet recent decades have seen an explosion of the use of fiber in works that are purely art, as a medium for conveying thoughts and ideas. Each year our **Fiberworks** exhibit features wonderful work of both types, as well as some pieces that bridge the two. I'm going to subject you to a poem I ran across last spring, written by a favorite poet, Jane Hirshfield. Each time I read it I understand a little more. See what you think:

Orange Oil in Darkness

The useful part
of things is elegance -
in mathematics, bridges.

Even in hedges
of ripe persimmons
or mandarin oranges,

elegance solves
for the minimum possible,
then dissolves.

The art is what is extra:
a fragrance penciled in,
or long division's inescapable remainder.

Not quite unplanned for,
more the unexpected, impractical gift.
Not the figures traced
in the bridge's stanchions,
but the small
and lovely sounds they make in the wind.

Who drew that in?
Who could have?
For years now I've mistaken

art for beauty,
but it is not beauty.
Art lives in a plenitude more iron,
more empty, less demanding.
Art doesn't care,
except in moments of despair.

Those it lets pass, recognizing weakness.



FAO MEETING LO- CATION & 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: Feb 14, 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00

FEBRUARY PROGRAM—By Sundra Flansburg

For Valentine's Day... A program about love in action!

Sundra Flansburg from World Neighbors will talk about some of the ways that World Neighbors works around the world investing in people rather than things, and how that looks in some specific areas, including Guatemala and Nepal. World Neighbors is an international development organization, based in OKC, that works with some of the most remote and marginalized communities in ecologically frag-



ile areas around the world.

Many of us have learned about World Neighbors through WorldFest, a huge weekend fair trade event in October, which includes stunning handmade textiles from other countries.

You can visit the World Neighbors website at: <http://www.wn.org/>

Elia Woods

Next month's program will be presented by Donna Hilton, of the Weavery at Indian Meridian

JANUARY'S SHOW AND TELL

Charlotte Hickman has generously donated some of her handspun yarn that will be given away as door prizes at the February and March meetings so don't miss out!



A section of Charlotte Hickman's Butterfly quilt.



Charlotte Hickman with her hand spun and hand knitted sweater

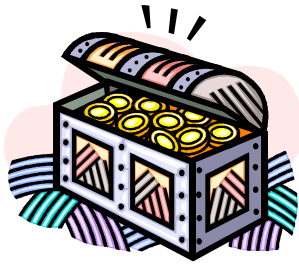


Elia Woods showing her scarf.



Janie Wester's beautifully woven items.

FAO Treasurer's Report



Income: Fiberworks Awards \$200

Expenses: \$0.00

Ending Balance \$7472.13

Anyone Interested?

Each year we submit a grant to the Oklahoma Arts Council to help fund Fiberworks (we will receive \$4700 from the Arts Council for Fiberworks 2008). Linda Temple has been writing this grant for many years and would love to mentor someone who wishes to learn and eventually take over this task. It is a one time per year commitment--grants are due February 1 for the following fiscal year (the grant for FW2009 was submitted earlier this month). If you are interested in learning how to do this, please contact Linda Temple at lgtemple@juno.com or 478-4936.

FIBERWORKS 2008 Calendar of Events

(Save these dates!)

Submit Entries—May 30 - 31 (Fri. & Sat.) 12-4 pm IAO Gallery

Jury Entries—June 2 (Mon & Tue.)

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

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

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

Exhibit Ends—June 27 (Fri.).

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

Fiberworks 2008 will be on display at the IAO Gallery, 811 N. Broadway, OKC, June 6th thru June 27th, 2008.

FIBERWORKS '08 REPORT

Our Fiberworks Chairperson, Karen Collier, who normally writes this article has been out of town more often than not so you will have to endure another article written by me.

Carla Houston has designed the 2008 prospectus and it is now available to be downloaded from our website, so go take a look! We will be mailing out the printed version soon.

Shirley Conaway has been doing a terrific job on publicity. You may have already seen our ads in national magazines. She has contacted several newspapers in Oklahoma, radio stations, and is even working on TV coverage. The publicity ads are working because Karen has already received inquiries.

Linda Temple has submitted our grant request for Fiberworks 2009 to the Oklahoma Arts Council.

Elia Woods has the task of raising funds for the Fiberworks awards and they have been pouring in the last few months so we expect to meet our goal.

I want to thank Shirley, Linda, Carla, Elia, and all the other committee members that work so hard every year to make sure we have the best Fiberworks exhibit ever. This will be our 30th Anniversary so everyone can help by creating something special to enter.

Kay Moore



From the Editor — Kay Moore

I must apologize to everyone for getting the newsletter out so late this month. I had jury duty then contacted a bad case of the flu so if this newsletter isn't up to par you will know why. I promise I will do better next month.

It was a pleasure last month to see a retrospective of Charlotte Hickman's art work from spinning, knitting, and art quilts. She even brought her husband, Gerald, along to help with displaying. Thanks, Gerald, you did a great job too.

The program this month should be interesting. World Neighbors is a wonderful organization helping women all over the world to support themselves. Come see and hear what Sundra Flansburg has to say.

FAO is such a wonderful and tolerant group! Carla and I each brought one of our oil paintings for show and tell last month and even though it wasn't fiber



Kay Moore and Carla Houston (the gruesome twosome) at January's Show and Tell.

you still welcomed our participation. The painting bug has bitten both of us but I promise I won't completely drop my fiber work. I've just taken a little detour. You will notice, however, that we did include fiber items in the still-life that we painted. That counts, right?

Here is a link to one of my favorite online newsletters. I hope you enjoy it too: http://www.treenwaysilks.com/newsletter_feb08.html

I want to thank those of you that sent me news this month. We have so many talented women in our group that are winning prizes in national exhibits and demonstrating at national symposiums. Wow, I'm really proud of you all!

Please remember any news you want to send me is always welcomed. The cut-off for the newsletter is the 4th Thursday of each month. You can email kay@mlogical.com or call 605-7516. Thank you!

LENORE TAWNEY, FIBER ARTIST

I know it's a good day when my *American Craft* magazine arrives. I can see the latest work in fine craft in all mediums and read biographies of great artists. The February/March issue cover really peaked my interest; it has a full-page, black and white photo of Lenore Tawney, an icon of the fiber art movement who died in September, 2007 at age 100. The dramatic photo captures Tawney leaning contemplatively over her loom, her left hand grasping a cone of yarn while holding her head. Her right hand is pulling tautly on yarn...is she weaving it in or taking it out?

The article chronicles her life and influences on the fiber art movement of the 60's and 70's. Many of us in FAO began weaving then and were drawn to her very innovative and challenging work. This wonderful article certainly reinforces the trend in the fine craft world that fiber has come full circle and is at the forefront of craft. I urge you to find a copy and take pride in the art and craft you contribute to this movement.

Sue Moss Sullivan

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!!!

<http://www.fiberartistsok.org>

CALL FOR ENTRIES

SURFACE: LAYERED. Call for entries. Entry fee. Juried exhibit. **Deadline February 14.** Open to all artists working in 2- or 3-D fiber media, including all techniques and forms. This includes, but is not limited to, traditional craft materials and processes, as well as the relationship between fiber and painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, conceptual and installation art. This exhibit is part of a program that culminates in a one-week symposium and series of workshops to be held at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, AZ, from July 28–August 1. For more information,

send SASE to Alan Petersen, Coconino Community College, 2800 S. Lone Tree Rd., Flagstaff, AZ

86001. Contact Alan Petersen, (928) 226-4322;

alan.petersen@coconino.edu; <http://www.coconino.edu/finearts/sl/>.



Spring Art Show 2008 Bartlesville Art Assoc. Art Center, Bartlesville, OK is accepting entries March 28 & 29. More information and the Prospectus is available at <http://www.bartlesvilleartassociation.org/>



Mark Your Calendar!

The Paseo Artists Association will sponsor the "Fine Craft Art Festival" on Oct. 11 and 12 in the historic Paseo Arts District. It will be a great opportunity to show fine crafts of all mediums,

especially fiber arts: weaving, felt, baskets, etc. A prospectus will be available soon. Let all the fine craft artists you know about this great opportunity.

It is not too late to apply for the Paseo Arts Festival. Go to <http://www.thepaseo.com/> for more information.

Stephanie Grubbs won a \$500 award in the "Materials, Hard & Soft" exhibition in Denton,

Texas, for her felt piece, "Waterbourne." The 22 year-old exhibition is on view until March 20 at the Meadows Gallery, Center for the Visual Arts. CONGRATULATIONS, Steph!

Marie Miller will have pieces in the Fiber Forum Exhibit, March 1-May 30, 2008, Margaret Parshall Gallery, 426 W. Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY.

The **Fiber Art Design Group** will have an exhibit at the Midwest City Library from March 5—March 31.

Abi Chodosh will be demonstrating her Falling Leaf Shibori technique on June 7th at the **Shibori Symposium at the Textile Center**, a national center for fiber art, in Minneapolis, MN. You can read about it here: <http://www.textilecentermn.org/shibori08.asp> Congratulations Abi, we are proud of you!

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Early 19th Century **Flax Spinning Wheel**, good working condition, double band drive, signed and dated - \$1,000; **1989 Ashford Spinning Wheel**, working condition, single band drive with scotch tension, maple color wood - \$300 Contact Lynn Deal 580-655-4215 or 580-304-5232.



Abi Chodosh will be teaching a class titled **Pattern**

On Cloth: Falling Leaf Shibori at the City Arts Center on Saturday, February 23rd, 1-4 pm.

Use natural dyes to create beautiful fiber art with images of leaves floating to the ground. Students will be guided through a simple stitching method and dye process. Everyone will take home their own dyed silk scarf! Appropriate for students of any experience level, ages 14 and up are welcome.

\$50 (supplies included)

http://www.cityartscenter.org/classes/classes.php?group_id=1



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.