

PACIFIC TEXTILE ARTS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021 www.pacifictextilearts.org

A TOTALLY NEW REALITY

Editor: My thoughts as I begin this issue are inescapably centered on the conditions we are all experiencing. The words that keep popping into my mind are depression, resilience, creativity and productivity.

Each morning when I awake, I am met with a treetop view out my window. What I see is my Magnolia, constantly changing if only by tiny increments. At this moment all the leaves have changed and fallen and they have been replaced almost immediately by tiny buds that will develop into a jaw dropping array of candy stick blossoms. I watch this tree religiously and

am constantly reminded of the miraculous changes all trees undergo year after year. My Magnolia speaks to me of resilience as it endures every kind of climate change. It inspires me continually to be observant of its minute changes and it undoubtedly plays a role in my daily creativity and productivity. These days, while we live with the pandemic, everyone needs something like my Magnolia to make it through the days, weeks and months we are experiencing.

Living on the Mendocino coast, we are blessed with trees, ocean breezes bringing clean, healthful air and a population rich with extraordinarily, creative people. At Pacific Textile Arts we are locked down just like everywhere else, but we continue to work wearing masks while distanced, on our library, gallery, sales room and studios. We make improvements in each situation with hope that circumstances will improve to the point where we can once more hold on-site classes, exhi-

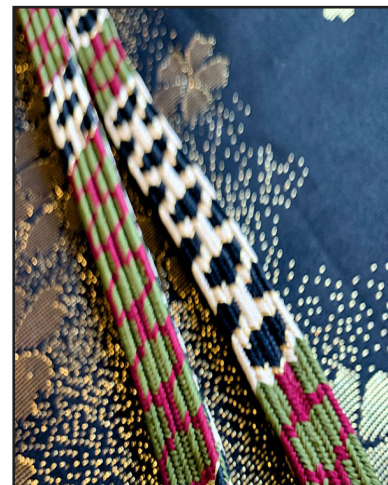
bitions and special lectures. We have several interest groups that meet weekly or bi-weekly, we hold Zoom board meetings and offer occasional online classes. Sadly we have had to forego our textile fair and our Kumihimo Festival for this year. It is our plan that each of these will be able to return next year and we are offering some sale items on our website. (pacifictextilearts.org)

A spinning group meets weekly at the home (in the garden) of one of our board members, Ann Brezina. And a group of braiders meets at Henhouse Studio for Kumihimo every other week. Check our

website for details. The arrival of several new tapestry books is cause for celebration. And we are happy to have inherited a number of new pieces of equipment that will enhance our studios when things return to some kind of normal.

We are also pleased to introduce a wonderful new board member who has just completed a Mendocino County Community Foundation grant proposal for us and has agreed to oversee our ever growing textile library which has been run so well for many years by Roberta Brockschmidt who remains active but needed to resign from the board after many years of diligent work in service of the library. We welcome Joanie Packard to

our board and because she is so skilled, we are definitely making good use of her many talents. At this moment we are doing pretty well Covid 19-wise with only a few cases on the Coast but each day we hold our breath and hope that everything will soon be better. Please stay well and keep creating.

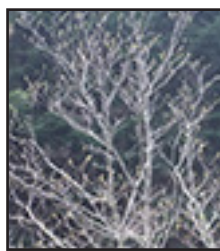


See Within

Membership reminder

*Meet Joanie Packard,
our new board member*

*See some new work created
during the Pandemic by creative
artists among us*



*Exquisite Kumihimo
from Michael Hattori*

*See also:
more images and
message from
Michael
within*

A plan for this newsletter:

Because we are all so affected by our current circumstances, I have decided to request a few of our favorite friends and supporters to check in and share with us what they are up to during these trying times. I hope you will enjoy hearing from them.
JW

MICHAEL HATTORI

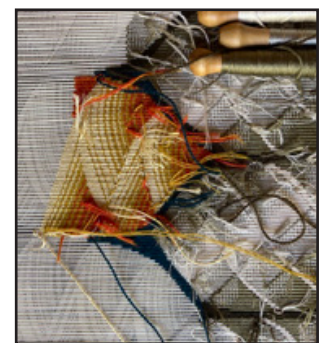
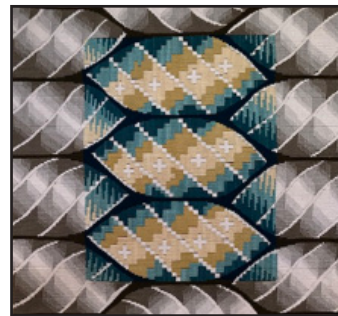
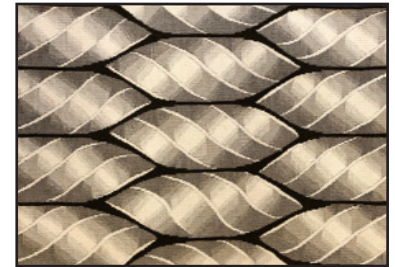
“Hello Everyone! Not having our annual gathering in Ft. Bragg for the Kumifest at Jackie’s wonderful Hen House Studio was such a disappointment. But as far as I know everyone is healthy and doing their best to stay that way. Some of you may know that I am an RN, have been for going on 24 years now. Hard to believe. I’ve spent the last 20 of it working in surgery and recently became a Diabetes Educator. Working in the OR during COVID has been a challenge, to say the least. I worked weekends only then, and we still took many patients who needed surgery, but were not tested for COVID then. So, we had to treat every person as if they had COVID, don our protective “spacesuits” called PAPR, and hope for the best. As a Diabetes Educator, it has been no less stressful, especially in recent weeks with our hospital at max capacity every day, and many of the COVID patients have diabetes. And many new diagnoses as well. These people are at their worst, battling for their lives, and we have to tell them that on top of it all, they have diabetes. Many are Spanish-speaking only, and we are not allowed to go into their rooms. So, we are forced to try to teach them about diabetes, how to give insulin injections, how to use their new blood glucose meters, all over an iPad video, using a Spanish translator on a separate phone. Most of them are so ill, they cannot connect with you, can’t breathe well enough to speak back, or are on high pressure oxygen masks which prevent them from speaking. It is all so awful, and we feel terrible that we are able to do so little for these people, knowing that when they go home their chances of remembering anything we taught them is practically nil, unless they have a family member who is willing to come to us to receive that education. Needless to say, it is a truly frightening and terrible situation. But, as nurses, we forge ahead and do our best to give every patient the best care we can deliver, which often now feels more than inadequate.”



JEAN PIERRE LAROCLETTE

THE GRAIN

“It is estimated that worldwide there are about 200 different embroidery stitches. With a similar universality, tapestry expressions, however, are always based in the same grain, the crossing of the weft over the warp. One grain, many cultural visions. One great magnificent song in many languages. These studies, 15 x 15 inches, 14 EPI, are visual explorations of that diversity. The third, in progress, includes a modified wedge-weave structure.” Jean Pierre and Yael as well as Yadin, have been dividing their time between Mexico and California. During these hard times they have all been working non-stop. JP wrote that he has been weaving like a “MAD SPIDERMAN.” They have studios in both places and are obviously making use of them.



MIRIAM DAVIS

“Well...I’ve experienced no more difficulty during these times than others fortunate enough to live on this coast...family and friends invisible for long periods of time, uncertainty and anxiety, some sleep disturbance, and eating too much. I am continually surprised by how little actual, measurable time I am spending in the studio. You would think...but the washing machine goes on the fritz, all my cleaning is now done by me, and there’s gardening, walking the dog, and *waaay* too much time reading the news online. Luckily, I can listen to podcasts and novels while I work. **This piece, “Bridge,”** is larger than the things I usually make. It stretches for 7 feet between two poles in my garage studio, but it is still a sort of miniature. I love working with scraps, old fabrics and bits of twine.”



JAMES MAXWELL

James Maxwell is definitely “A man for all seasons.”...author, artist working with many materials, teacher.....and the list goes on. He lives on the coast and continues to create during the Pandemic. His wondrous work with “art cement” never ceases to amaze me. I prize prints, paintings and cement objects made by him. He collaborated on a book of travel stories with Skip Wollenberg and Lydia Rand (*Along The Way*) and in the most recent years has been working with textiles. Shown are three of his marvelous textile creations and one of his many signature cat paintings. Contact: JamesMaxwell.com



JACKIE WOLLENBERG

I try to work each day on braiding or tapestry. The latter has been neglected lately....perhaps because the image I hope to pursue is too daunting. I braid every day. I am distracted by news every day. I am fortunate to have a wonderful space to work in. I am feeling that the new tapestry image is coming almost within my grasp. Hope springs eternal.



Sparkle 2 and Organic Orange



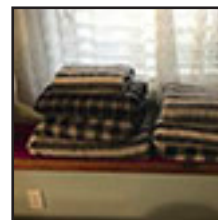
ADRIANE NICOLAISEN

“When the lockdown hit, I was completely non-operational for several weeks because I had previously defined life in some specific ways that were no longer possible. At some point I ran across some online felting courses with some very talented felt makers and decided to give one of them a try. I started with Kristy Kun who was scheduled to teach at the Mendocino Art Center. I did two of her online workshops in sculptural felting. Then Judit Pocs, out of the Hungarian felting tradition, was offering an online workshop for making a totally outrageous felt hat. That workshop took several weeks to complete and resulted in some fantastic headgear. I went on to take another of Judit’s courses for making a sculptural object called a torque from the Vikinlands. Judit’s work is amazing and is truly original. After deciding I really am not interested in making fantastic hats, I moved on to take another workshop from Flora Carlile-Kovacs, another young Hungarian woman who teaches traditional Nomadic rugfelting techniques from Central Asia. She also leads tours of Hungarian felt-making workshops which I hope to participate in when we are able to travel again. Just the other day, after finishing Flora’s workshop and after many hours of deliberation, I’ve started a 3-D sculpture, the seed idea for which is A Mad Felters Tea Party. Not sure where this is going but it gets me out of bed in the morning.”

ELAINE TODD

Elaine is the tireless president of the Board of Pacific Textile Arts. She is a great grandmother who just doesn’t know how to be a slacker no matter what she’s doing. She is now teaching our newest board member, Joanie Packard, to weave tapestry in the French manner. If something needs doing, just mention it to Elaine. We are so lucky to have her as a friend and colleague. Pictured are the seven baby blankets she made for her little ones

and a lovely little crocheted doll for the first birthday of the latest. We are delighted to have this lovely lady in our lives. The virus is not slowing her down.



CLASSES AND EVENTS

FROM LOLLI JACOBSEN: We finally dipped our toe into the online waters with our Members Holiday Show/Sale on our website through December. I hope you saw the beautiful show our webmaster NormaLee Andres put together. We liked it so much we are going to make a Member's Gallery page on the website for work for sale and not for sale. We're also making plans to do a virtual tour of our facilities for those of you who have not been here before. To make the bare gallery walls look better for the 'tour', we decided to hang some of the best of the things we'd been saving for our annual Fiber Fair that usually happens the first weekend in October. We intend to put that online as a virtual fundraiser-- first come first sold. We'll ship to you for an additional \$10 or arrange pickup at the PTArts house, tax included in price. We're also talking about having the traditional Fiber Fair 'booths' where members can sell new or used textile related items, so contact Lolli_jacobsen.lolli@gmail.com if you're interested in having items in the Textile Bazaar. We hope to start up our monthly 4th Saturday programs via Zoom in the New Year. We are talking with Jean Pierre Larochette about doing a program about his new tapestry book, *Anatomy of a Tapestry* soon. We'll send out an email and we can all 'gather' around our individual computers at the appointed time. We hope to reschedule classes that had to be canceled or postponed as soon as it is safe to gather in the classroom once again. That would include resumption of Janice Sullivan's interrupted weaving class, Felting Beads and Making Jewelry with Mickie McCormic, No Mess Dyeing for Quilters and others with Jennie Henderson, Introduction to Tapestry Weaving with Jackie Wollenberg and Elaine Todd, Twill Weave Rug Weaving with Nancy Kennedy.

Be sure to check out our newly designed website. Many thanks to our hard working webmaster, NormaLee Andres. You will still find it at: pacifictextilearts.org

For the time being our virtual Fiber Fair is continuing. If you would like to see this newsletter in color, go to our website and click the appropriate link for a newsletter #77C or email Jackie with a request. (jwoll@mcn.org)

MARY ZICAFOOSE

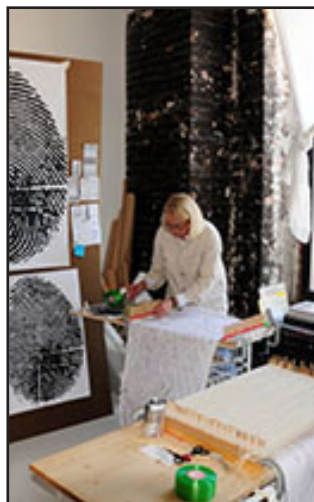
Mary has published a lovely new book entitled: *Ikat: "The Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist-Dyed Cloth."* "Ikat is not a technique for the faint of heart," says Mary, but if you are up for tackling it, Mary is definitely the one to learn from. We have had her here for Ikat and Design workshops and there just isn't a better artist to work with. The



new book is receiving rave reviews and we're all looking forward to having her here with us when it is safe to do so. Mary has worked, traveled and taught throughout the Americas. She has exhibited throughout the world. I had the pleasure of exhibiting with her and a group of North Americans along with twelve Latin Americans, which included nine artists from the

Teotitlan del Valle community of Oaxaca, Mexico. It was great fun to be there with her at the Oaxaca Textile Museum.

Mary currently maintains a fiber studio in Omaha, Nebraska, and is constructing a new home and studio on her historic property, Pahuk, on the Platte River. She credits her "courage at the dye pot" to the influence of painter Mark Rothko and her designs to every textile she has seen and touched.



ANATOMY OF TAPESTRY

This is a fabulous, long-awaited book, written by Jean Pierre Larochette and his daughter, Yadin Larochette. It is beautifully illustrated by Jean Pierre's wife, Yael Luri. The book has been so well-received around the world that it is now being used as a text in such locations as Aubusson, France at their center for tapestry arts. This is a long-awaited book coming from these three world-class tapestry authorities. Over the years many of us have studied with Jean Pierre and Yael in Berkeley, in El Tuito, Mexico and here on the Mendocino coast. To be with them and continue to learn from them is always the greatest pleasure. Jean



Pierre is known for his many artful approaches to confronting various weaving and designing situations and Yael is always there to illustrate our situations on paper and make the necessary moves amazingly clear for us. Keep an eye on our website for news of possible online presentations regarding the Larochette activities, including a book tour, workshop and notices of their latest creations. In addition to all the fine features in this book is the fact that they have printed it on very substantial paper and best of all, that they gave it a spiral binding. This allows a reader the opportunity to have the book close by and make really good use of it. This book is available on at least nine of the more popular sites, a list of which is easily found on Google. In chapter 9 of the book you will find several contributing pages about the work of other tapestry weavers. You can get more information about my section by contacting me. I would be happy to send you a "How To" list: jwoll@mcn.org

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, JOANIE PACKARD

“Joanie has a bachelor’s degree in literature from UC San Diego and a teaching credential from Prescott College in Arizona. An avid reader, maker and self-described life-long learner, Joanie’s curiosity leads her on regular adventures. Joanie recently moved to the area from her home in Salt Lake City and is living with her college roommate and friend of 40 years and her husband in Rancho Navarro. Their plan was originally to each be traveling one-third of the time and home together one-third of the time. Hopefully those travels will resume once the pandemic subsides. She loves to play stringed instruments and the piano - but just for her own entertainment. She loves to fix things and has *too much experience with comput-*



ers. She has two children she is very close to, who still reside in Utah, and her parents live in the Bay Area. She loves all things textile. She is an avid quilter and sewist and was first introduced to weaving by her grandmother in the Central Valley. To support her creative interests, she tutors and helps people write and design books for self publishing.” She is currently learning kumihimo and tapestry. To support her creative interests, she tutors and helps people write and design books for self publishing. She says she has been looking for Pacific Textile Arts her entire life and is thrilled to have joined our board.”

Pacific Textile Arts, at 450 Alger Street, has become a warm and welcoming place to congregate. When it is safe, we hope you will join us again at some of our Saturday Programs, classes, study groups and First Friday openings for our gallery exhibits. You may view this newsletter in color by going to our website and clicking on the link for newsletter #77C. If you haven't already renewed your membership, we hope you will take the time to send in the enclosed envelope. We are so grateful for your support.

NAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS

PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS

I want to be on the Constant Contact Email List

Let us know if you would like to receive our online **Constant Contact** mailings with news of PTArts.

And....**Please send us your email address** so that we can send you our newsletter in color online. thank you.

PTARTS MEMBERSHIP (\$15) \$ _____

DONATIONS:

MONTHLY SAT. PROGRAMS \$ _____

HELEN POPE MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND \$ _____

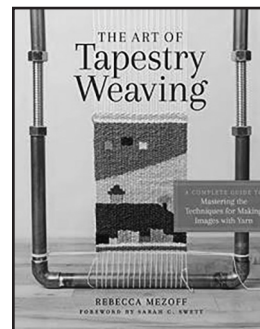
SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ _____

DYE GARDEN FUND \$ _____

UNDESIGNATED DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

THE ART OF TAPESTRY WEAVING
by Rebecca Mezoff is a comprehensive resource
on tapestry. It is available from at least five different
locations including Amazon (\$35.00)



TEXTILE ARTISTS TO SUPPORT

CHECK OUR WEBSITE -TEXTILE BAZAAR - FOR ADDITIONAL SITES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT DESERVE TO BE SUPPORTED

Jacobo Mendoza - Fabulous hand-woven tapetes by master weaver -jacobomendoza.com

The Center for Textile Arts (cusco, peru) <https://www.textilescusco.org/>

Vasques Family (Oaxaca) Weaving Studio <https://huellacarmin.com/our-family/>

Janet Chavez - (google her many sites) Born in Teotitlan del Valle she comes from a family of master weavers.

Threads of Life - Indonesian textiles- threadsoflife.com

Mendocino Art Center - mendocinoartcenter.org - Many virtual classes and events

Partners Gallery - www.partnersgallery.com - "Partners gallery Vacated its location of over ten years in fort bragg due to covid-19. We look forward to reopening in another gallery space in the future. Meanwhile, the partners continue to create in their studios and to feature a series of online exhibitions on this new website."

PACIFIC TEXTILE ARTS

450 ALGER STREET
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437

WEB: PACIFICTEXTILEARTS.ORG

EMAIL: pacifictextilearts@mcn.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ELAINE TODD — PRESIDENT

JACKIE WOLLENBERG— VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY DENISON — TREASURER

KAREN INWOOD — SECRETARY

SUE ARNOLD

ANN BREZINA

JENNIE LEE HENDERSON

LOLLI JACOBSEN

MICKIE MCCORMIC

JOANIE PACKARD

NANCY TRISSEL

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

JACKIE WOLLENBERG: 707-964-5279

EMAIL: jwoll@mcn.org

LIBRARIAN:

JOANIE PACKARD

WEBMASTER: NORMALEE ANDRES

WEBTECH@PACIFICTEXTILEARTS.ORG

FROM OUR TREASURER, NANCY DENISON

At Pacific Textile Arts, we have created a separate section of our library called: **THE MIRIAM C. RICE RESEARCH LIBRARY** and installed it on the available shelves in the PTArts office. This collection of books, magazines, letters, and memories of international symposia were donated by Miriam's estate and others who helped develop the body of knowledge from experimentation that Miriam began in the early 1970's in Mendocino, California when she discovered color pigment in mushrooms that she found in the local forests. Mushrooms became another natural dye source for textile artists! Miriam's research led to the publication of 3 books and international interest through meetings (symposia) around the world every two years or so. PTArts board member, Nancy Denison, worked with Miriam over a period of 24 years, continues as a board member of the International Mushroom Dye Institute, and loves to share her experiences on the subject. You may contact Nancy for more information 707-964-1082 or nancydenison@mcn.org. Websites to visit are www.mushroomsforcolor.com and www.mycopigments.com.

You may order the book, *Mushrooms For Dyes, Paper, Pigments & Myco-Stix*, by Miriam C. Rice and Dorothy Beebe from www.fungiperfecti.com or from Nancy directly (for \$35) if you live in Mendocino/Fort Bragg area.