

Temari Twins: Jen Weber and Karen Heppen, 8–9 October 2016



The Temari Twins, Jen Weber and Karen Heppen, first encountered temari at the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers' 2011 open house. There they found a bowl filled with remarkable stitched balls made by members at a workshop. Their response? "We have GOT to do this!"

Using Barbara Suess's book, *Japanese Temari: A Colorful Spin on an Ancient Craft*, they worked through every pattern and later spent a week learning with Suess herself. She introduced Weber and Heppen—twins in spirit—to more complicated techniques and to many hard-to-find Japanese publications. Their current work focuses on interpreting the designs of the masters of temari and writing up intermediate and advanced patterns for publication.

Their temari have won awards at the Harford County and Maryland State fairs two years running and were featured at the Liriodendron Mansion, Bel Air, Maryland, in March, 2015. In teaching as a team, they give students two very different perspectives on the craft and how to understand it.