

From the President

Gail Hamill

Welcome to another great edition of our newsletter. We continue to meet remotely on Zoom. If a prospective member wishes to join our meetings, please have them email you with their request. Our guild does not require a specific skill level, but rather an interest in the fibers arts. Because of the pandemic our December sale and auction will be postponed until next year. Check out our Facebook page which will feature our workshops. Members can post their work there as well.

2020 November Workshops

This is just a reminder of what's up. We closed registrations for these workshops a few weeks ago to allow time to receive and distribute workshop materials.

November 14, 2020 -- Marilyn Romatka

Mini-workshop (3 hours): *Papiersterne: European Paper Stars*

Delightfully easy and deceptively complex, these stars are popular in Europe, especially at Christmas time to hang in windows with light coming through them. They are made of Drachenpapier; a special translucent paper fresh in from Germany. The class is geared for adults, but the technique is easy enough for children. All materials are provided by the instructor for making 4-5 stars in a rainbow of colors.

Student Supply list: Sharp long bladed scissors (sewing snips will not do), transparent glue-stick (not purple-will-dry-clear), and a ruler or straight edge. Everything else will be sent to you.

November 15, 2020 -- Marilyn Romatka

Workshop (1-5 p.m.): *Bow Loom Weaving*

The Bow Loom is an ancient technique using a simple, portable loom to make narrow, beaded bands. The technique is used in ethnic groups in Thailand to make bands for their exquisite headdresses. No previous weaving experience is necessary and the loom can be used for many more hours of weaving. This is a great introduction to ethnic weaving.

Student Supply List: one 4-foot long, 1/4" dowel (available at any hardware store). While there, buy 2 just in case one wants to break), small amount of duct tape, some 20 yards of 5/2 cotton in a favored color, E-6000 glue (available at all craft shops/hardware stores, and probably already in your craft room!), sewing snips.

November 16, 2020 -- Marilyn Romatka

Workshop (1-5 p.m.): *Trichinopoly on a Dowel*

Also called "Viking Chain Netting" and "Viking Weaving", this jewelry technique is done with neither knitting needles nor a loom, but instead with thin wire on a stick! Examples of these chains have been found in Scandinavia dating back to the 8th century A.D.

This technique can be used to make necklaces, bracelets and earrings. The chain looks exquisite and complicated, but the process is simple and straightforward. This is a great portable handicraft you can do on a bus or plane.

Student Supply List: jewelry pliers, needle nose pliers, wire snips.

Guild Meetings 2020

Online until further notice

10 am - Meeting & Program on Zoom

November 14, 2020 Marilyn Romatka -- The Handicrafts of Gujarat

December 12, 2020 Eileen Doughty -- Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists

The Guild Sale and Pot Luck has been rescheduled to Dec 2021

January 9, 2021 Cynthia Steinhoff -- Discovering Delaware Samplers

February 13, 2021 -- TBD

Future Programs and Workshops

There are no workshops in December and January. We will have programs in the coming months and it is possible that we might have some workshops in February, March or April but our original presenters were unable to switch to an online format and had to withdraw. We are working diligently to find new presenters to fill our program through April but do not have firm commitments as we go to press.

We anticipate that our original presenters for **May (Valerie Goodwin-quilting)** and **June (Emily Wohlscheid—fiber blending/jewelry)** will be able to conduct their workshops online. We will provide more details as they become available.

Remember, to register and receive the Guild discount, you must logon to the members only area of the PFLAG website when registration becomes available. <https://potomacfiberartsguild.org/>

A Review of Recent Meetings

Val Hildebrand

Dazzling Designs

That's what I think of when I remember Clara Grave's presentation at the Sept meeting. A cascade of dazzlingly colorful fabric designs. Clara gave us a glimpse of her artistic journey and progress through her creative process. We got an inspiring look at her early career in graphic design and her current work with printing, dyeing and silk painting. If you missed her presentation, below are some images of her colorful work. To see more visit her website

<https://www.claragraves.com/>



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Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery	Clara Graves

Immediate Past President

Floris Flam

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Creative Crafts Council (CCC)
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Handweavers Guild of America (HGA)
Janet Stollnitz
Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA)
Diana Guenther
Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA)
Linda Guild

The Member Directory was updated on 9/15/2020 and is available on line.

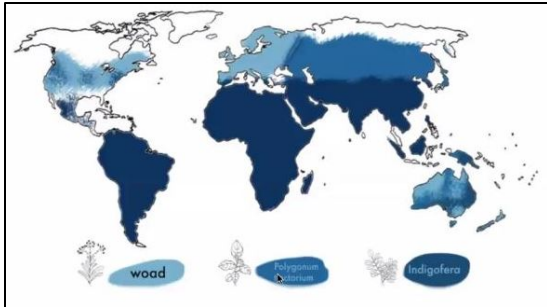
A Little Zoom Etiquette

As a measure of both courtesy and security, please make sure your real name shows in your video box when you log into our Zoom Meetings. It is courteous to let everyone know who's on and it alerts us to possible "Marauding Meeting Crashers". I'm sure you've heard about some of those. And remember, many members use the gallery view and can see everyone whose video is on...not just the person who is speaking. Need I say more?

Plus, please ask permission to share the meeting link with non-members. We don't mind but we would like to know to expect visitors so we can welcome them. Email Gail at president@potomacfiberartsguild.org

So Many Blues

October's presentation by Rosa Chang showed us the many variations of blue dye used across the world and extracted from three varieties of "indigo plant". Her research with artworks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art revealed that indigo is the dye that has been shared by many countries and cultures around the world, but each has its own unique indigo dye process and textile culture. Her project to map where indigo was/is grown and used in textile production is eye-opening. You have only to look at the map to discover why.



Her work led her to rediscover a practice of indigo production renown in her native Korea. Her desire to re-create this practice in current day Baltimore led to a fascinating experiment. She took us from the planting of *Polygonum Tinctorium* seeds to the final extraction of a beautiful blue dye. It was a journey of many complicated steps and not a few setbacks, but what a glorious result. To learn more about



her project and the cultivation of indigo in Baltimore, visit <https://www.indigoshademap.org/>

Learning while Zooming

Judy Barsalou

In the Covid-19 era, taking an intensive silk painting class via Zoom can be an act of faith. The class, taught by PFAG member Clara Graves on September 13-15, involved three consecutive six-hour days. Having taken several of Clara's classes in recent years at the Torpedo Factory and in her home studio, I knew her teaching to be of the highest standard, so that was not a concern. Rather, I wondered, would Zoom technology enable her to demonstrate new techniques? Would I be able to see the fine details? What about interactions with other members of the class? Would Clara be able to comment on, and critique, my work as it progressed? The answer to all of the above was "yes."

Key to the success of the workshop was Clara's intensive preparation and her interest in refining her teaching technique after reflecting on results at the end of the first day. Well in advance of the class, Clara mailed supplies to those students who needed them. She also spent weeks before the workshop, experimenting with lighting and camera setup, assisted by her husband, Ron, a photographer of note whose work features race cars and nature closeups.

The result was that I could see as well as, or even better, than I might have in Clara's studio because the camera was closely focused on the silk and on

Clara's hands as she demonstrated techniques.

Excellent lighting enabled me to take clear screen shots as Clara progressed through her demonstrations, and accurately reproduced the brilliant dye colors. Students' questions and comments were easily audible to all.

After a demonstration, we each returned to our own silk, with Clara checking in at regular intervals to make suggestions, answer questions and advise on next steps. At the end of each exercise, students held up their pieces to their cameras to share with others and for Clara's comments. We all stayed online throughout the class so that Clara could call us back to our screens, summoning us individually for personalized assistance as well as for collective discussion.

If there was any element of the class that fell short of an in-person experience, it was being able to see properly the work of other classmates (our cameras and lighting were not up to Clara's standard), and our inability to wander around a

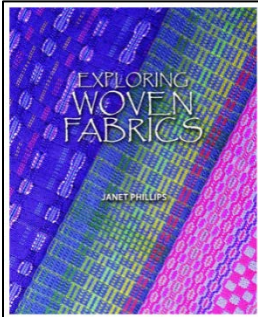


shared space, watching others' work as it unfolded. (In a future class, that might be mitigated by taking photos of students' work and sharing them real time via phone or computer.)

A student with an iffy WIFI connection on the first day of class improved her experience by participating in the next two sessions from her daughter's house, where the signal was more reliable. Assessing print paste consistency or "goopiness" (a highly technical term in the silk painting craft) required a bit more discussion than might have occurred had the class been in Clara's studio. But the end result was a class that satisfied my desire for learning and boosted inspiration in the comfort of my own studio.

From the Librarian

Becky Dahlman



Even though we can't meet in person, there are still limited opportunities to borrow library books from the guild library! Check out the link to the catalog in the members-only section of the website to find books of interest, then, send a request to me at librarian@potomacfiberartsguild.org. I will try to arrange to collect books from the library on roughly a monthly basis, if I have requests. I will also be happy to collect books that members are ready to return.

We have some new additions to the library - one of them is Janet Phillips' new book, **Exploring Woven Fabrics**. Here is the description from her website:

This book is for beginner and intermediate weavers. It teaches how to construct and weave multiple-sectioned sample blankets exploring colour and weave techniques on four and eight shafts as well as combining weaves together into Block Weaves.

There are seven multiple-sectioned sample blankets to weave:

- Four-shaft Colour and Weave Effect
- Four-shaft Log Cabin
- Four-shaft Shadow Weave and Repp
- Block Weaves: Double Cloth and Summer and Winter
- Eight-shaft Stitched Double Cloth
- Eight-shaft Bold Colour and Weave/Deflected Double Cloth
- Eight-shaft Shadow Weave and Repp

Included are detailed design decisions and principles for weaving 40 original fabrics created from exploring these seven sample blankets further. There are 12 four-shaft designs and 28 eight-shaft designs.



Fiber Doings and Viewings



Some of our guild members will be participating in the **13th Annual JRA Day Craft Artist Exhibition and Sale**. It will be online from November 28 to December 5. This annual showcase for artists who are members of the James Renwick Alliance is expanding to 8 days, with 59 artists working in the craft media. Usually held locally at the Chevy Chase Woman's Club in December, they're excited to bring this work to people across the country for the first time.

PFAG member **Floris Flam** is one of the artists participating in the show with works like this quilted cotton sateen bowl .

Items purchased from the show website will be shipped by the artist. But, many items may also be picked up at the James Renwick Alliance office in Chevy Chase, MD. The website will indicate if pickup is an option.

Check back with the website as the show draws closer for more information, <https://www.jra.org/all-jra-events/jra-day>





Building Bridges 2020 is an exhibit of work by members of the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore. The theme is Building Bridges Between People, Cultures, the Natural World, and Ideas. Twenty-four members have work in the show and ten of them are also members of PFAG. Below is just a teaser of their work, so visit the website to see each one up close and the other intriguing works in the show. <https://wggb.org/building-bridges-1/>



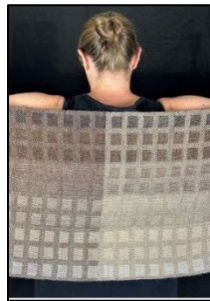
Deborah Herrin — Skyline



Jeanne Bohlen -- Dancin'



Carol Bodin -- Purple Pops



Heidi Brown -- Bridging Fiber Flock to Garment



Dolly Perkins —Three Hills



Janice G Knausenberger
Himalyan Blue Poppy



Mary Pflueger—Taming the Virus



Carol Hamelink — Bridge to the Past



Anne Sanderoff-Walker— Knitting Meets Weaving



Cheryl Migliarini --The Bridge before the Fall

Something Out of the Ordinary



Calais was once a destination for lace manufacturers. The artist, Nespoon, spray painted this antique lace pattern on the side of the Cité de la Dentelle et de la Mode, the city's fashion and lace museum. Yes, OK, this lace IS painted on but still... come on...it is lace! How cool is that! To learn more visit

https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2020/09/nespoon-lace-mural-calais/?mc_cid=16b0b886f8&mc_eid=56744b88af

TEXTILE TALKS

Another in the series of Textile Talks was this delightful presentation: **Seeing Myself: A Story Through Quilting with Aisha Lumumba**. It was presented by the Modern Quilt Guild.



Her mantra as she experimented with quilting was--**I'll try everything!** Her delightful and exuberant approach to finding her quilting story is inspiring. Here are just two of the many diverse pieces she made during her quilt making journey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=180Z38WjmZs&feature=youtu.be>



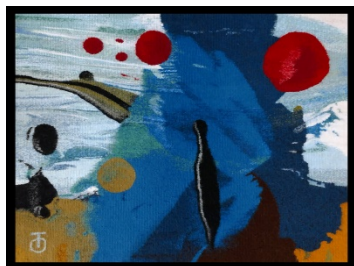
Textile Talks is sponsored by the Quilt Alliance and features weekly presentations and panel discussions from the International Quilt Museum, the Modern Quilt Guild, Quilt Alliance, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, Studio Art Quilt Associates and Surface Design Association. You can see the complete list of Textile Talks at this link.



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXsBpWjk3xVCTzucHkrU3ly5NlLa7mW3f>

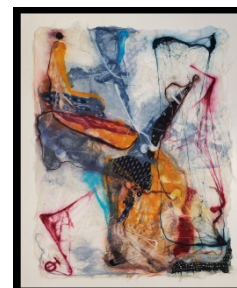
A Time to be Joyful

We need to celebrate! Guild member Tea Okropiridze has been having a good month. She has had artwork in or has had work accepted for five juried shows, pretty much all in the same month. I am guessing this does not happen very often. So, we really should celebrate that such a lovely thing is happening during a time filled with less pleasant things. Congratulations Tea! Below are her artworks and their shows.



First, these two works were in the **Torpedo Factory Artists Association Newly Juried Artists 2020** in early October.

Dream, a Tapestry - Wool, acrylic on cotton warp and **Walking Alone** Silk Fiber Fusion / Silk Paper



Then there were two works in **Fiber III, A National Juried Show - LibertyTown Arts Workshop**, Fredericksburg, VA. This show was up the whole month of October.

Rendition and **Wanderer**
Both artworks are Silk Fiber Fusion / Silk Paper



A third show that closes on Nov 7.

**Material II:
Second National
Exhibition of
Fiber Artwork
d'Art Center,**
Norfolk, VA
Hidden Story
Silk Fiber Fusion /
Silk Paper



And this 5th acceptance came in as we went to press.

**The 5th international Triennial of Textile Art
"TexpoART"**
"Victoria" and "Theodor Pallady" Art Galleries,
Iasi, Romania to be shown in December 2020



Composition Silk Fiber Fusion/Silk



A fourth show, where 50 artworks were selected from over 600 submissions.

**Corporate Connections
2020, Maryland
Federation of Art, online
Circle gallery**

This show was juried by Robert Madden, National Geographic photographer.

Full Moon Silk Fiber Fusion / Silk Paper

Now For Something Completely Different

Did you take a Guild workshop this fall? If so, we'd love to see what you did in the workshop. If you've created something based on what you learned in the workshop, please share that as well. Send images to Janet Stollnitz, jstollnitz@comcast.net; be sure to include your name and contact information as well as that of the workshop. no later than Wednesday, December 9. By submitting work, you are agreeing to have your name, work, and description posted in the Members Only section of the Guild Website after the slide presentation.

Then in January we would like to see your favorite fiber tool. Come on, you know you have one—even if it is that old Boye crochet hook that has just the right feel for your hand—the kind they don't make anymore! Send pictures and brief descriptions of those to Janet as well, by January 6.

During Stay at Home

Projects Lovingly Completed

Shirley Waxman

As soon as the lock down began I started working.

I found projects I had begun 10 years ago, set aside and forgot about. They are now all finished!

It is an opportunity to clean up my messes and hand stuff over to other people, I am getting older I am more focused, share! Give other people an opportunity to explore.

Coping to me means being busy, I cannot survive boredom. As long as I have my hands and my creative juices flowing I am happy.

This project began with a piece of fabric I had purchased in Hungary, a few lines and a variety of left over embroidery materials to which I just kept adding.



The yellow flowers in the centre are beads I bought in Turkey, as are the sequins. Very different from what we are used to. For framing I went into my stash of fabrics. I found a piece of Indonesian fabric I had bought on the Dutch side of St Marten 40 years ago and it was perfect. All of this inspired reminiscing about my travels, all of which involved exploring fabrics. Covid initiated the project, it was my inspiration and so I am calling this piece "Covid 19 embroidery doodles #1"

Tools Lovingly Repaired

Lea Stern

I was gifted an Ashford traditional wheel dated about 1975 from someone in PFLAG (if anyone remembers who it was, let me know as I'd like to thank her



again!) and it unfortunately was in very sad shape. I wasn't sure it could be salvaged. It was missing screws, the connector between the treadle and footman was broken and the worst part was that the wooden cog that holds the wheel and spikes in place was completely broken apart.

I took it apart, re-glued and clamped the wheel together. I replaced stripped and loose screws, put in a new leather connector rod and cleaned and oiled the wheel.

I'm happy to say that it spins great now and is quite beautiful. I really hope the person who entrusted it to me will see this and respond!



Learning Brings Joy and Sadness

Bea Westerberg

2020 has had some very high and very low events for me. In February I joined a group that was going to explore "Organic Applique" and we were going to use the book by Kathy Doughty with that title as our guide.



Our plan was to use all hand dyed wool starting with large wool rectangles as the base and then use pieces of other dyed wool to create nine "blocks" of applique vases with flowers. The main focus was to explore the wool design and not make the actual applique process the highlight. This time consuming project saved my life in the early Covid 19 lock down and I discovered great joy in my first attempt at applique of any kind.

I created all nine pieces and was at the stage of sashing them into panels of three across when I made a strategic error. I took one 3-piece panel along with me to the dog's curb side vet pickup to work on while I waited and somehow it got kicked out of the truck. PANIC, PANIC, PANIC! We checked and rechecked all the places we had been to, made calls, notified the police department and placed a \$50.00 reward ad in the paper. But, IT HAS NOT COME BACK!

I have had a long grieving process and still to this day, almost four months later, it has not come to an end. I have thought of a wide range of things to do but...just can't commit to any of them. I am very thankful I was brave enough to try this new project and I do have the remaining six applique pieces to love.

(Editor's note: This photo was taken to document the layout prior to sewing the sashing. The three lovely flower vases shown in the middle panel are the missing ones.)

At the PFA Gallery



The **Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery** (Studio 29) at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 to 4:30 and by appointment (703-548-0935). All visitors must wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Our **holiday show** is up with lots of items that are sure to please. For a preview take a look at the Gallery's Facebook page--Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery.

<https://www.facebook.com/potomacfiberartsgallery>

We invite new members from the Guild to display their art. Please contact Marisela Rumberg at Marisela@mariselarumberg.com for information and an appointment for a review.

Show and Share

Here are two items submitted for show and share that were created since the last meeting.

Val Hildebrand

Paper Pieced Table Topper "Rainbow Mountains"



Jackie Lewis

Woven on a rigid heddle loom and an Inkle loom, sewn together on a 44 year old sewing machine



Membership

If you know someone who would like to join our guild, please invite them to a meeting or refer them to our website, <http://www.potomacfiberartsguild.org/guild>. For answers to membership questions contact membership@potomacfiberartsguild.org

You can access the Membership Directory and Handbook online on our website.

Outreach

Our Guild promotes excellence in design and fine craftsmanship in the fiber arts. Part of that mission is to provide educational opportunities to the general public to promote a better appreciation of the fiber arts. Contact outreach@potomacfiberartsguild.org with your ideas and suggestions. We like to feature these Community Outreach opportunities in the newsletter, so please also send information and especially photos of your participation to newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org. Financial support, in the form of a mini-grant, is available to members to help fund outreach projects. For more info contact Julie Haifley, the Outreach Committee Chair.

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee eagerly looks forward to the day when we can offer some good old fashioned PFAG hospitality again. Until then we will see you on Zoom.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is posted to the PFAG website and is accessible via the link in the email sent to Mailman subscribed members.

To access the current issue of the newsletter, click the emailed link. You can also view it by logging in to the Members area at our website. Click the big green oval that says click here for the latest issue.

Newsletters are published just prior to the meeting month of the current issue. Send your fiber experiences, workshop impressions and more. Email the editor at newsletter@potomacfiberartsguild.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Membership

The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA is located diagonally across from the Café in studio 29. We invite new members from the guild to display their art. Please contact Marisela Rumberg at Marisela@mariselarumberg.com for information and an appointment to be juried.

Inclement Weather Policy for In-person Meetings

In the event of a severe weather emergency affecting an in-person PFAAG monthly meeting, program or workshop (mini and extended), the Guild will follow the closing guidelines issued by Montgomery County Government for events involving Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF). (Please note this is not the Montgomery County Public Schools notice). If severe weather threatens, please visit the [CUPF Emergency Closing Information](#) website.

If CUPF facilities are closed and/or events are cancelled or delayed, PFAAG events will be cancelled. As with any endeavor, members should be guided by their own best judgement in deciding whether to venture out in difficult weather. We hope we will be able to gather in-person again soon.

Inspiration Corner

Val Hildebrand

This month's inspiration comes from Mónica R. Goya for her photo of the Dolomites, a mountain range in Italy. This was displayed in the NY Times for their series on travel during the pandemic. They are also called the Pale Mountains because of their unique light-colored rock formations. Could there be a tapestry project in there? One of these days, I am going to find out!



Check out the PFAAG Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PotomacFiberArtsGuild/posts/>

Here is what was trending when we went to press.

Potomac Fiber Arts Guild
October 7 at 6:20 PM · 🌐

Carmel McGrane ▶ Everyone Can Quilt
September 26 · 🌐

I originally thought this was made from fabric but it is actually an excavation in Turkey and is stone mosaic hundreds of years old. Absolutely beautiful

