



# Fiber News & Updates

February 2021 Vol. 11, Issue 6

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ [www.valleyfiberartguild.org](http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org)

## ~ Looking Ahead ~

**2021**

### **Mon. Feb. 15: General Meeting**

*Online: ZOOM*  
"Theorem Painting"  
Kaye Miller

### **Mon. Mar. 15: General Meeting**

*Online: ZOOM*  
"How String Changed the World"  
Cameron Taylor Brown

### **Mon. Apr. 19: General Meeting**

*Online: ZOOM*  
Art Off the Reservation:  
Contemporary Native American Art  
Judy Tracy

### **Mon. Mar. 17: General Meeting**

*Online: ZOOM*  
"Make and Take: Weaving Over  
Stone"



## Valley Fiber Art Guild



Membership \$25/year

[www.valleyfiberartguild.org](http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org)

## ~ President's Message ~

Hello Creative Persons,

It is finally February and the days are getting longer and we are going forward to ending our Covid nightmare. I am still rejoicing about the little things that I have and do.



Are you feeling stagnant and stuck?

If not, keep on having fun, but if you are, then you are feeling like me. I asked myself: *self.... what would get you unstuck and happier?*

The answer came in a form of an online class that was offered over the computer. It was not a class that I would've normally signed up for in the past, but it looked interesting and I thought I would give it a try. I sent my money in via the link, and *BAM...* "instant class."

Instant gratification; just love that part! Sitting in front of my computer for an hour enjoying the instructor's demonstration, and me writing notes, was such a joy. It gave me inspiration, new vistas of creating, and a challenge that I had not had for a while.

After my second class, I was ready to tackle my first try at my new skill. The thing I liked best about starting was when the instructor said, "This is just practice, just go with your feelings expressing yourself and **NO** judgments of it until you finish." That was the hardest part of my first attempt.

How many times have you started something new and thought you had to produce a 'winner?' If there is one thing that Covid has taught me, it's that we have plenty of today. So, I will continue to explore my new skill and have fun. I wish the same for all of you during this time of patience and endurance. Consider trying something different to spark some energy into the comfort zone of our lives.

Keep on creating!

*"Captain Adventure" Peggy*

**Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Program****“Theorum Painting” with Kaye Miller**

Kaye Miller has been an active member of our guild for the past several years and is excited to share with us her special interest and skill in Theorum Painting.



Kaye hails from Arkansas where she had the opportunity to lead two lives: the life of a wife and mother and, the life of a professional educator in the field of biology. But it was actually the life of wife and mother that led to her continuing interest in the fiber arts.

When her family moved to Connecticut and Kaye’s two children were young, she looked for a creative outlet for herself - - and discovered Theorum Painting. It is an early American art form originating in the late eighteenth century in New England and was part of the curriculum taught in boarding and finishing schools of that time. Theorum Painting uses Exacto knives, stencils, oil paints and brushes to create replicas of primitive art pieces.

Join us for Kaye’s presentation on the history and current use of this historical art form. *Reminder - - This meeting will be held on Zoom. Look for the Zoom link to arrive in your email inbox the day before this meeting.*

***ALSO happening in February*****February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM: “Pre-Columbian Doubleweave Techniques” with Jennifer Moore.**

The **Telarana Fiber Arts Guild** (<https://telarana.org/>) was awarded a grant from **the Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds** to help pay for a presentation by Jennifer Moore. The presentation will occur during their February meeting, and will be made available to all Federation Guild members.

Jennifer Moore has been a doubleweaver, artist and teacher for almost 40 years. She has traveled extensively throughout the US and abroad teaching workshops on doubleweave, color and geometric design. Her techniques and systems for working in doubleweave can also be found in her book *“The Weaver’s Studio: Doubleweave”* and in her online courses. Jennifer’s website: <https://doubleweaver.com>.

Jennifer’s presentation is on Pre-Columbian doubleweave techniques. Jennifer prepared for a year to teach this technique at a conference at the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco in Cusco, Peru. She studied blackstrap weaving, Peruvian doubleweave and Spanish. Jennifer will present a slideshow from the conference and her travels in Peru, as well as demonstrating what she taught at the conference. Telarana Fiber Arts Guild will be hosting this program via ZOOM on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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The Zoom room will be open for sign in at 6:45 PM. Telarana's zoom account accommodates 100 people; entry will be on a first come, first served basis. However, in the event that the room is full, the presentation will be recorded and a link will be sent to the representatives of each of the Federation guilds within 48 hours of the presentation. The presentation cannot be copied but it will be available for viewing until the end of the month.

If you are interested in attending, let Kay know via the ["Contact Us" link on the VFAG website](#) and she will send you the Zoom link.

If you have any further questions please contact Maureen McCarthy at [mmccarthy46@gmail.com](mailto:mmccarthy46@gmail.com) or 595-690-6513.

Telarana website: <https://telarana.org/>

Coming March 15<sup>th</sup> .....

**"HOW STRING CHANGED THE WORLD:  
AN EXPLORATION OF FIBER AND  
HUMAN INGENUITY"**



by Cameron Taylor-Brown  
Fiber Artist and Educator

**Library Notes - Greetings from the Library!**

It's been a quiet January with few library transactions to report. Last month I highlighted the magazines that the guild subscribes to. This month I would like to shine the spotlight on some of the collections that the library has available.

Starting with "A" for Altered. Some of the titles included in this collection are *Altered Art*, *Altered Books*, *Altered Curiosities*, *Altered Images*, and *Altered Surfaces* to name a few. The main subject heading for these titles is 'Art and Design'. Do these few titles pique your interest? It's a great place to start learning a new creative art form!

Are you a visual person that likes to browse a collection by looking at book covers? Here's another way to learn of some of the exciting and interesting titles that the library owns. Just go to the main page of the library at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/VFAG> and just watch the titles scroll across the screen.

See something that begs a closer look? Just click on the title and it will take you to a more complete description of the book in question. To check out any titles in the collection, just place a hold and I will make arrangements to retrieve the title(s) from CPAC and arrange a time for pickup at my residence.

If you have not yet registered on the library system, just send me an email and I'll set up a patron account for you. *A gentle reminder* - - that you must be a current member of the Valley Fiber Arts Guild to take advantage of library resources.

Next month I will continue to highlight specific collections. In the meantime, happy browsing!

Melanie Fritz, Guild Librarian

**Did You Know?**

Video presentations featured by our speakers in our Zoom meetings can now be accessed on our website. Just go to the home page, scroll to the bottom of "Upcoming Programs" and click "View Past Program Videos." (your VFAG member password is required)

Currently available:

- Marie Gile: How to Tie a Scarf
- Tamara Scott: Fiber Artist



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

How lucky we are to be part of the Valley Fiber Art Guild, a vibrant organization that provides fellowship & inspiration for its members! It's through the generous sharing of experience & ideas that we continue to inspire, challenge & educate ourselves regardless of whether we're able to meet in person or connect virtually.

To expand opportunities for virtual learning, the Program Committee is in the process of putting together a resource of Guild Members and Study Groups that have learned techniques by taking classes online & may be willing to share their experience with fellow Guild Members.

If you would like to share what has inspired you online or if you have any specific information about an online class that you think would inspire others, please take a moment to share your information & experience & contact one of the following members of the Program Committee by phone call or email.

Sudie Durham at 520-548-4138  
or, [susandurham@cox.net](mailto:susandurham@cox.net)

Marge Lind at 520-207-3606  
or, [mjlind69@gmail.com](mailto:mjlind69@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCING...

The Membership Chairperson position is open  
- - and needs to be filled.

How about YOU?

This is a volunteer position and is a great way to meet and get to know your guild members.

### Basic duties:

The person who holds this position must have a computer and printer.

1. Receives mailed-in membership forms and payments.
2. Payments are passed along to the Treasurer.
3. Membership forms are collected and recorded to create and maintain a current roster which is updated monthly.
4. Print labels for name tags that are used at in-person meetings.
5. Supervises and runs the membership table at in-person meetings.
6. Attends monthly Board meetings (currently on Zoom).

*Note:* If two people are on the committee they can share responsibilities and have back up.

If you are interested in volunteering - - now, would be a good time to begin in order to attend Board meetings and learn from Pat, our current membership chairperson. The position officially begins May 1, 2021.

Any questions?

Please call Pat Merritt at 607-656-9795 or email:  
[wayoutwest18@gmail.com](mailto:wayoutwest18@gmail.com)

**MASKED RESPONSE - - When Fiber Artists Re-Imagine the Face Mask**

California Fibers (<https://www.californiafibers.com/>) is a community of both young and experienced fiber artists that has been in existence for over 50 years.

Recently they challenged their members to create face masks representing their “new reality” of living in the pandemic - - “...whether it's what it feels like to wear a mask, or to NEED to wear a mask, or about the changes in our daily routines due to COVID-19 and Shelter-in-Place orders.”

**And, WOW!**

*Did they come up with many,  
many creative concepts!*

See them all here:

<https://www.californiafibers.com/blog/2020/6/6/masked-response>



## January Show and Tell



“Skinned basket” by  
Debbi Brunner



“Skinned basket” by  
Merry Warner

The Basketry Study Group enjoyed a program led by Mary Warner on repairing baskets.



Needle felted gnomes by Nora Sue Helle



Japanese doll made by Peggy McGaughey for her best friend for Christmas. The fabric is 50 yrs old and came from her friend's uncle who lived in Hong Kong.



A knitted shawl by Ann Pyper using the broiche stitch and worked with two colors plus, is reversible. Photo on the right shows the beginning of the shawl.



Embroidered denim shirt by Sue Durling.



Icelandic twill scarf by Sue Durling.



Carolyn Webb showed a pair of beautiful lace fingerless gloves, made by Anne Fletcher in Tucson, who has been a past VFAG member. These are a copy of a vintage pattern in Piecework Magazine. They are light blue cotton thread, knit on 00 needles. The pattern is in Piecework Winter 2018, by Inna Voltchkova, inspired by a photo at the Russian Museum of Ethnography of two young women in festive dress. If anyone wants to make them, Piecework back issues can be purchased at Longthread Media Shop.

## VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 AM by Peggy McGaughey, President.

Peggy introduced our speaker for today, Ann Pyper who is presenting on "Bird Dance and Beyond".

Ann gave us a brief history of her life-long exploration of embroidery. She started as a little girl hospitalized for tonsillectomy when her aunt gave her a set of sewing cards to keep her busy. She graduated from sewing cards to stamped pillowcases, learning the basic stitches such as running, chain, lazy daisy, satin stitch and cross stitch. Having mastered the basics, she branched out to crewel work with lots of texture, counted cross stitch at first on aida cloth and later using 32 count linen. By 2003 she was embroidering on felted wool with embroidery floss, using buttonhole stitch and then tried her hand at the beautiful colors of perle cotton. Rustic bunnies were one of her favorite motifs along with birds and flowers. The samples she showed have a lovely rustic folk-art quality. Ann began to convert quilting applique patterns into motifs for her wool embroidery.

In 2014 she was a member of a group that embroidered flowers and birds native to Arizona. They chose one bird and one flower to be featured each month. Ann started with an inspiration board that was the result of her research. As a result, she was able to capture the charm of these birds and flowers in wool felt and embroidery. Ann used these embroideries as medallions for throw pillows.

Ann embarked on the creative stitching series "Bird Dance" by Sue Sprager. This gave her the opportunity to learn a myriad of new stitches using a variety of embroidery threads including the variegated Valdani threads. Some of Ann's pieces were displayed in a quilt shop. Ann's birds, done in a variety of bright colors have a wonderful "cheeky" quality.

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These birds have spirit, personality and an abundance of attitude. Each piece is unique in its variety of embroidery stitches and color.

Ann has compiled these embroidered pieces into a book and is at work on another. Ann has shown us that choosing one type of handwork allows us to explore it in depth and in doing so to find our own artistic voice. We are grateful that Ann has shared this with us and proud to have her as a member of VFAG.

Sue Durling recommends the magazine “Piecework” to members, it has many features on a variety of needlework methods and fascinating articles on the history of many of the techniques we use today.

The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Pat Merrit is resigning as membership chair, we need a new person to fill this vacancy.

The Valentine swap is underway with some members electing to participate. The deadline for participating has been moved to Friday, January 22. We will send out an additional email to members this week.

#### STUDY GROUPS

Basketry- had a program last week led by Mary Warner on repairing baskets. Some members showed old baskets that they had brought to new life using Mary’s suggestions and techniques. This group meets the first Thursday of the month.

Beading – has been meeting via Zoom

Clothing – not currently meeting

Crochet - not currently meeting

Knitting – next meeting is January 26 via zoom.

Kumihimo – now known as Zoomihimo meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. They will be rolling out a new project at the next meeting.

Rigid Heddle – no report

Mixed Media – meets the first Monday of the month. They are still having fun learning new techniques and would love to have you join them.

Spinning – they continue to be adventurous and meet in-person (but socially distanced and masked) out of doors at the charming Desert Meadows Park.

Tapestry – not currently meeting

Weaving – has 16 members and meets the second Monday of the month at 10 am via zoom.

#### SHOW AND TELL

Gretchen Ramsey showed a heart-shaped basket with an open structure that she covered with pink tissue paper coated with glue.

Debbi Brunner showed us a basket she also refurbished with a colorful drop cloth on the exterior and an old Spanish language newspaper on the interior. Both hers and Gretchen’s refurbished baskets were inspired by the “Repairing Old Baskets” program delivered to their study group by Mary Warren.

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Merry Warner showed a work in progress and a basket she re-worked with motifs taken from petroglyphs.

Sue Durling showed a book, *Tatting Goes West* which inspired her to tat motifs that she applied to the button band of a western style shirt. A lively discussion on the not-nearly lost art of tatting ensued. Sue is willing to teach tatting to interested members.

Sue Helle has been in the holiday spirit needle-felting a variety of charming gnomes. They may end up in her clay fairy houses.

Sue Norris showed a pair of mitts knitted by Ann Fletcher from a pattern published in "Piecework" Magazine. Made from light blue crochet cotton, she dreams of wearing them to Tanglewood Music Festival hopefully this summer. She will swap out her overalls for a pretty summer dress to go with her beautiful mitts

Martha Fine showed a quilted wall hanging for her new grandbaby Tallulah Rose, inspired by her names; Rose for her great-grandmother and water which is the meaning of Tallulah, the wall hanging shows rose petals falling from roses and transforming into water drops. She also showed a leather bucket bag that features a suede reverse applique motif of a cat playing with a ball of yarn.

Peggy McGaughey was gifted with some beautiful red vintage silk which she used to make a kimono for a doll she also made. The directions for this project were written in Japanese. So not only are our members skilled craftspeople they are also creative problem solvers. This was quite a challenging endeavor which delighted the recipient who was the donor of the vintage fabric.

The next general meeting of the Green Valley Fiber Arts Guild is Feb. 15 at 9:30 am. The featured speaker is Kaye Miller who will show us her Theorem Paintings.

Cameron Taylor Brown will speak at the March meeting on "How String Changed the World"

The April meeting will feature "Art Off the Reservation" by Judy Tracy.

The May meeting has the intriguing title "Make It and Take It: Weaving on Rocks"

We all are optimistic that following the summer hiatus we will be able to safely meet in person once again.

Susan Miller has vintage silk and lace to donate to members. Her email is in the membership roster.

Carolyn Webb informed us that the renowned Royal School of Needlework in London sponsors virtual talks. Program information and fees are available on their website.

If you have information that may be of interest to members send a blurb to Dagmar Munn to be posted in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Fine, Secretary

Newsletter Editor:

Dagmar Munn [dagmunn1@gmail.com](mailto:dagmunn1@gmail.com)

## ~ Study Groups ~

Study Groups are open to all **current guild members**. Learn a new technique, share ideas and resources or just enjoy the friendship. **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and national recommendations for social distancing, study group meetings have been modified.** For more information about a particular group or the current topic of the month please contact the group leader.

*Note: "OTM" refers to "of the month."*

### **Basketry:**

Holding meetings via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday OTM at 9 AM, to share techniques, book reviews, and show and tell. Debbi Brunner – [misseyb@gmail.com](mailto:misseyb@gmail.com)

### **Beading:**

Holding meetings via Zoom and will continue meeting this way through June 21. Usually meets the 2nd Thursday OTM; 9:00 a.m. Karen Gabriel – [karengary115@gmail.com](mailto:karengary115@gmail.com)

### **Braided Rug:**

Instruction offered on an individual need to learn basis. If interested, please contact: Gretchen Ramsey - [grandmagretchen@cox.net](mailto:grandmagretchen@cox.net) (393-6179)

### **Clothing:**

Currently not holding meetings. Usually meets the 4th Thursday OTM; at 9:30 a.m. at Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Kristine Sells and Paula Sween are the co-leaders. Kristine Sells – [cksells1961@gmail.com](mailto:cksells1961@gmail.com) Paula Sween - [sweenpaula@gmail.com](mailto:sweenpaula@gmail.com)

### **Crochet:**

Currently not holding meetings. Usually meets the 3rd Thursday OTM at 9:30 a.m.; at Sunrise Point Clubhouse. Contact: Toni Prutch – [portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com](mailto:portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com)

### **Knitting:**

*Contact group leader for current meeting details.* Currently meeting via Zoom, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday OTM; 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Sarah Price - [sprice1013@yahoo.com](mailto:sprice1013@yahoo.com)

### **Kumihimo:**

Holding monthly meetings via Zoom at 1 pm (AZ time). An email will be sent 3 weeks before each meeting to identify the current project. We meet the 4th Wednesday OTM; 1:00 - 3:00pm. Co-leaders: Eileen Coyne and Judy Model. Group Contact / Communication Director: Diane Mikolyzk - [dianemik46@gmail.com](mailto:dianemik46@gmail.com)

### **Marudai:**

Due to the continued closure of Friends-in-Deed, this group will suspend all in-person meetings until further notice. Usually meets the 1st Thursday OTM; 12:30-3:00pm at Friends in Deed. Pam Roederer - [roederers@gmail.com](mailto:roederers@gmail.com)

### **Mixed Media Fiber:**

Holding monthly meetings on Zoom. **NEW!** Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday OTM (beginning Jan, 4<sup>th</sup>); 1:00 p.m. To join, contact co-leaders: Donna Lambert - [DonnaDo3203@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaDo3203@gmail.com) and Elaine Cselenko - [elaine52@yahoo.com](mailto:elaine52@yahoo.com)

### **Rigid Heddle Weaving:**

No meetings scheduled. **NEW!** Meeting times changed to the 3rd Tuesday OTM; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Marilyn Wrucke - [mwrucke2@gmail.com](mailto:mwrucke2@gmail.com)

### **Spinning:**

"Spin in the Park" will continue to meet at the Desert Meadows Park (north end by the Butterfly garden ramadas) from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please contact the group leader for a current update on activities and plans. Usually meets the 3rd Wednesday OTM, 10:00 a.m.; Ann Pyper - [pyperann52@gmail.com](mailto:pyperann52@gmail.com)

### **Tapestry Weaving:**

Currently not holding meetings. Looking at Zoom opportunities. Usually meets the 2nd Wednesday from 9:30 to 12:00 at Quail Creek Kino Center - - in the conference room. Contact Debra Brown - [debrabrown15@icloud.com](mailto:debrabrown15@icloud.com) or Lila Stoffel - [lstoffel@loretel.net](mailto:lstoffel@loretel.net) (520-648-0792) or April Boysen - [gaboysen1@gmail.com](mailto:gaboysen1@gmail.com) (720-545-7748).

### **Weaving:**

Meeting monthly via Zoom. Usually meets the 2nd Monday OTM, 1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room of Quail Creek Kino Center. Cindy Wolf – [pclobo2@gmail.com](mailto:pclobo2@gmail.com) or phone: 608-343-6765.