



Fiber News & Updates

November 2023 Vol. 14, Issue 3

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

2023 / 2024

General Meeting
November 13, 2023
Natural Dyeing

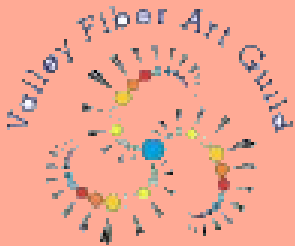
Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at:

Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622

Come early for socializing and library browsing at 9:30am.

Meeting / programs from 10:00am – 12 Noon

Valley Fiber Art Guild



Membership \$25/year

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

Download an enrollment form from our Web Site.

President's Letter

JACK OF ALL TRADES?

Every time I go to a gallery or quilt show featuring textiles, go online to Ravelry knitwear designers or attend a meeting with a guest speaker displaying their work, I am simultaneously impressed, inspired and a tad envious. I greatly admire their accomplishments and the level of skill it took to attain these accomplishments. I think to myself that if I diligently worked to develop a particular skill or focused only on one type of artistic expression that I would also be able to attain that level of artistry and expertise. I dream of my own Ravelry store, my own trunk show, of being a sought after guest speaker or even having a one-woman gallery show. But I am nowhere even close to that. I have not even submitted one design to Ravelry. I have shown a few quilts at local shows but never at a major juried show and I'm not sitting on a trunk show's worth of displayable items.

True confession – I am a “flitter”. I try a new technique and then get inspired to try a new different one. I dislike having to choose between the satisfaction of really nailing down one technique and thoroughly exploiting the variations and complexities of a composition versus the excitement of trying something new. I wonder if it is better to develop expertise in one area or to be a “Jack of all trades”? Can one be both simultaneously? Where do you fall on that continuum? Let's discuss it over lunch!

Fondly,
Martha Fine



November – Natural Dyeing: Painting with Nature's Palette

Natural dyeing, a cherished art form within the realm of fiber arts, is a celebration of sustainable, eco-conscious creativity. With roots as ancient as human civilization itself, this technique transforms textiles into living canvases by using dyes derived from plant materials, insects, and minerals. Each color is a testament to the Earth's bountiful palette, with hues imbued by the likes of indigo, madder root, and cochineal, creating an ever-evolving spectrum that resonates with both tradition and contemporary environmental consciousness. Natural dyeing not only infuses textiles with rich, nuanced colors but also connects artisans to a profound history of sustainable artistry, weaving a vibrant thread of nature's beauty into the fabric of fiber arts.



Shibori & Indigo Dyeing with Ric Rao

1½ day Workshop

November 11th 9am-3pm & 12th 9am-1pm, 2023

Cost \$100.

THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL

If you wish to add your name to the wait list, email [Debbi Brunner at misseyb@gmail.com](mailto:Debbi.Brunner@gmail.com)

Ric Rao of Las Cruces, New Mexico will be with us again this Fall! It been 6 years since Ric shared his love of Indigo dyeing with us so we are excited he is able to offer this opportunity to our members. Day 1, Ric will show his samples as you prepare fabrics for the Indigo vat, teaching you how to wrap and tie fabrics on a pipe, folding techniques and sewing options to create different designs. Day 2, he will explain the how the dye vat is created and guide you through the dyeing process.

Shibori Dyeing is wonderful on natural fabrics such as cotton, linen, and silk. Yarns of the same fibers and wool. This will be an opportunity to create samples that may be combined in a collage, accessory or garment.

There will be information and sign up sheets available at the general meeting.



Exhibit: Cumbi – Textiles, Society and Memory in Andean South America

Cumbi: Textiles, Society and Memory in Andean South America is a beautiful exhibit at the Tucson Museum of Art. It features some incredible and very early textiles from this region. I think this calls for a VFAG field trip, this exhibit will be in place until February 25, 2024.



There's Still Time to Create Something Special to Share for the President's Complementary Color Challenge

I hereby challenge every member of VFAG to a COLOR SMACKDOWN.

The challenge is to create anything of your choice that uses a pair of complementary colors (opposites on the color wheel, sometimes called opposites).

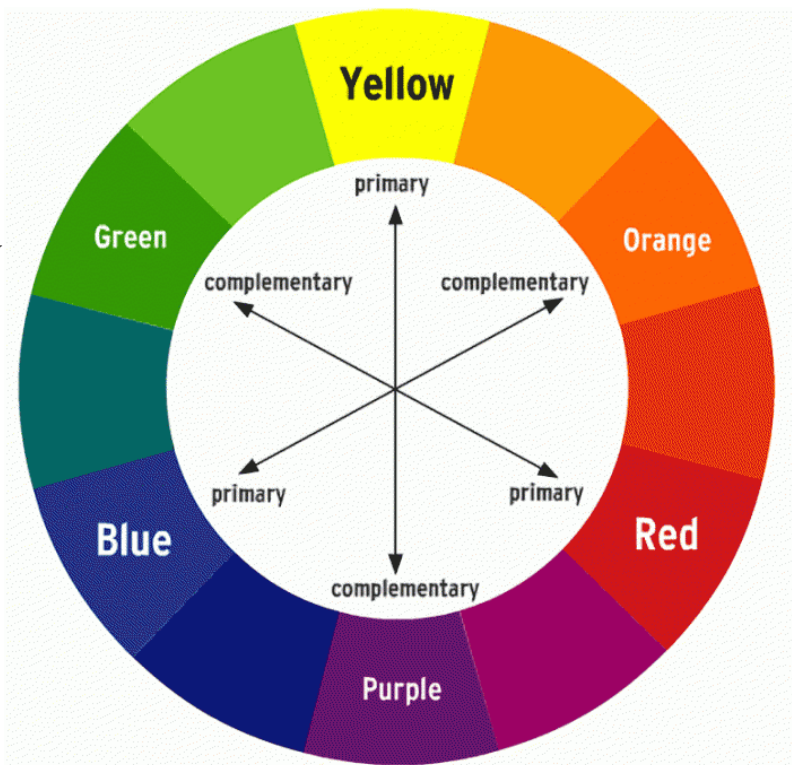
- Violet and Yellow
- Red and Green
- Blue and Orange

You may add a neutral but the majority of the piece must use the complementary color pair.

You can submit an individual piece, one you make with a partner or even a group piece made by a study group, or all of the above. You may submit as many entries as your creativity and time permit. There are no size, material or subject guidelines; let your imagination be your guide.

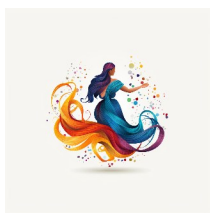
I am already thinking about violet and yellow as I see spring arrive in our beautiful desert but I know by the summer I will be delighting in blue waters and orange sunsets. I'm sure many of you will be intrigued with creating a Christmas delight in red and green.

Bring your entries to the VFAG general meeting on December 11, 2023. All members present will be able to vote for the "People's Choice Award" which is a gift certificate for the lucky winner.



October 2023 Art in the Park

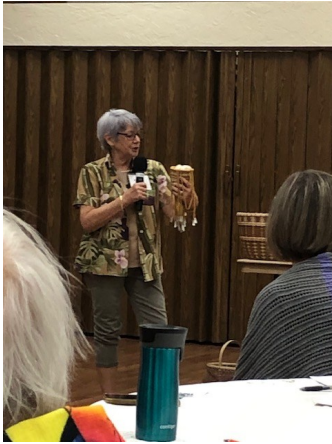
Outreach



On Saturday, October 21, VFAG manned a table at Desert Meadow Park's "Art in the Park" event. This is a well-attended annual event that draws a sizable local crowd with art, bargains and music. Jo'lene Northup, Peggy McGaughey and Debbi Brunner set up tables to display the work of our members. During the event VFAG members Debra Brown, Sally Young, Reba Ashmore, Bonnie Wollin, Gretchen Ramsey, Karen Gabriel, Phyllenore Howard and Martha Fine demonstrated a variety of fiber arts. The demonstrations drew a steady stream of viewers and many took our fliers and expressed interest in coming to a meeting. We all hope this was a successful outreach event resulting in new members for VFAG. Great big thank-yous to all participants. VFAG thrives in accordance with the efforts of our members.



October 2023 Baskets – An Essential Art





October 2023 Show and Share



2023 / 2024 General Meeting and Workshop Schedule

November 11 & 12	<i>Shibori & Indigo Dyeing Workshop with Ric Rao</i>
November 13, 2023	Natural Dyeing
December 11, 2023	Holiday Luncheon and President's Challenge Presentation & Voting: "Complementary Color Challenge"
January 8, 2024	Handmade Sorochocha Experience
February 12, 2024	The Color Red
March 11, 2024	Art Quilts
April 8, 2024	Member's Stash Sale

TAG (The Art of Giving)



Since many new members have joined the Guild, a brief explanation of TAG is in order. TAG was implemented 10 years ago. Our focus is the low income elderly in the immediate area. We target our gifts to reach people just before the holidays. We work with Valley Assistance and the local Fire Department to manage and delivery the gifts.

Our gifts include home made items; shawls, scarves, hats, gloves, lap blankets, etc. These items can be knit, sewn, crocheted, woven or any craft. They also encourage toiletries, books (I (Jane) try and include a homemade bookmark) or decorative items. Please use your own imagination and experience with interaction with older people for ideas for these gifts. In addition, there are more ideas on the website.

Jane Tempel will be collecting items in the October Guild meeting as she delivers to Valley Assistance in early November.

YouTube Channel



Valley Fiber Arts Guild has a YouTube channel all our own. It is a private channel; available only to our members. Information to access then channel will be made available in the members-only password-protected section on our website.

Arizona Fiber Festival (AZFF)



April 5th – 7th, 2024. Workshop details are now posted on the Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds website. Registration is currently open for affiliate guild members and opens to the public November 20, 2023 and closes March 1, 2024. Workshops fill up quickly. Go to the Federation website at www.AZFED.org and click on Fiber Festival on the opening page. Deborah Jarchow and Carol Byrne co-chair the festival. They will be looking for volunteers so think about how you can help. Three Valley Fiber Art Guild members will be instructors. Jol'ene will have additional information as it becomes available.

Study Groups

Study groups are the heart and soul of our organization. They are vital for sharing ideas, techniques, and most of all: friendship.

The VFAG will follow Pima County's Guidelines for COVID precautions. Whether you decide to wear a mask or not OR to create distance, you will be respected by all.

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."

We are always looking for new study group ideas; please let a Board Member know of your interest.

Beading:

Beading Study Group meets the second Thursday OTM from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Friends in Deed. We are making netted Christmas ornaments at the Nov and Dec meetings or bring your own project. A supply list will be sent to group members. Please contact Karen Gabriel for updates.

Karengary115@gmail.com or 520-207-0799

Clothing:

Clothing Study Group meets the third Tuesday OTM at 9:30, Desert Hills Lutheran Church. First meeting of the season is in October. Contact Peggy McGaughey – peg-e-su.silk@msn.com or 303-241-7686 for questions.

Felting:

Felting Study Group meets the fourth Monday OTM from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Friends in Deed. Contact Lyndy Runyon – lyndyrnyon@gmail.com or 707-373-8584 for questions.

Knitting:

The Knitting Study Group meets the fourth Tuesday OTM, from 9:30am to 11:30am at Friends in Deed meeting room A. Contact Jane Tempel at tempelj@aol.com for questions.

Kumihimo:

The Kumihimo group meet on the fourth Wednesday OTM. Next meeting is November 22nd 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Boal room at Friends in Deed. The topic is working in a braid within a braid. We are a small but mighty group who would love to see new members. Contact: Laurie Wykoff at lawykoff@yahoo.com.

Art Quilts:

The Art Quilts Study Group meets the first Monday OTM from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Quilt Central, 701 W Ward Ln. Contact Martha Fine marthafine52@gmail.com for questions.

Weaving:

The Weaving study group meets the third Monday OTM at 1:00pm at a members home. All weavers are invited including Tapestry & Rigid Heddle people! Contact Ann Bont for detail – abont@comcast.net or 231-652-6275 for additional information.

Spinning:

Spinning Study Group meets the first Thursday OTM at 2:00pm at 300 E Paseo Chuparasas. For more information contact Sally Young - rare1alaska@gmail.com or 907-322-9264.

Tapestry:

The Tapestry group meets the first Tuesday OTM, 9:30am-Noon at Friends in Deed. Everyone interested is welcome, beginners to advanced. Group leaders are April Boysen and Debra Brown. Contact Debra Brown at debrabrown15@icloud.com or 520-372-2075 for questions.

Newsletter Editor:

Cheri Golden. Please contact Cheri with questions or suggestions - cheri-golden@comcast.net.

VFAG Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

- President: Martha Fine
- Vice President: Jol'ene Northrup
- Secretary: Marjorie Delker
- Treasurer: Debra Brown
- Federation: Jol'ene Northrup
- Programs: Debbie Brunner
- Membership: Peggy McGaughey and Cindy Wolf
- Librarian: Melanie Fritz
- Webmaster: Open
- Newsletter: Cheri Golden

Member Advertisements

FOR SALE

Majacraft Little Gem spinning wheel for sale. Has several bobbins, plying head and bobbin and a carry case. \$950. It's a neat little wheel, but I don't need as many wheels as I have. Also have a Spinolution spinning chair for \$250. Sally Young 907-322-9264.

WORKSHOPS

SOUTHWEST CORNER will be offering classes in Four Harness Weaving, Basketry, Beading, Inkle Weaving and a variety of Spinning workshops with the SPINNING RODEO finale at the end of February. Go to WWW.COTTONSPINNING.COM, for more details and to download details and registration forms.

THE CALENDAR IN WWW.COTTONSPINNING.COM WILL GIVE YOU LINKS TO ALL THE FIBER ART WORKSHOPS IN TUCSON AND NEIGHBORING AREA.



DANDOY RETREAT

Monday, April 15 - Thursday, April 18, 2024

Happy knitting and crocheting!

DanDoh Style

- No shaping
- Easy to knit
- Adjustable length/width/sleeves
- Make your own style

Konnichi wa

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New Retreat Date: Monday, April 15 - Thursday, April 18, 2024

We're all about community.

Immerse yourself for two and a half days into the world of DanDoh, including lectures, a Mystery Knit Along, a Pop Up Shop, knitting, food, beverages, more knitting, reuniting with old friends, making new friends, sharing ideas and techniques, learning, (did I say knitting?) and building community, all within a very relaxed, informal atmosphere.

RETREAT REGISTRATION OPENED MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT 9:00 AM MST

Visit www.dandoh.com, select more, and select retreat to register.

