

New York Threads

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next Meeting – Saturday, March 30, 2019, noon

Ed Bing Lee:

What Knots

Artist Statement:

The Picnic series marked my first foray into the world of fiber art.

The series dating from the mid 1980's, juxtaposed selected passages from two of George Seurat's monumental paintings, namely *Sunday on the Grande Jatte* and *Bathers at Asnieres*, with contemporary food images selected from advertising art. Some 10 years later, I turned again to the food images, visualizing them three dimensionally.

However, the transition from earlier pieces to sculptural forms was not an immediate one, I moved gradually through several series, including framed pieces of historical miniatures, bas-relief of Orchids, the Earthcrust series and the current series, titled *Meditations on the Chawan*.

My initial attraction to the process of knotting was its immediacy and the fact that little specialized equipment is required, which allows for great latitude in approach as to design, concept and technique. In the Picnic series the work is akin to making a tapestry. The image is created by a vertical clove hitch over a fixed "warp", guided by a cartoon. I thought the process of creating an image of multicolor knots is not unlike Seurat's pointillism. In three dimensional or sculptural work, the knotting process is most forgiving and the work can progress in many directions simultaneously. The distinction of warp and filling is interchangeable.

In the end, I continually return to art history for visual and conceptual stimulation. For me it is the perfect jumping off point for work in a technique that knows no boundaries.

Ed Bing Lee has been perfecting his knotting artistry for over 40 years. He started as a commercial fabric designer in New York and Philadelphia and then became an instructor, teaching at Moore College of Art and Design, The University of the Arts, and the Art Institute of Philadelphia. Working with colored thread and thousands upon thousands of knots, Lee transforms a simple material and a common technique into a unique form of contemporary fiber art.

www.edbinglee.com



MEETING LOCATION

School of Visual Arts
133 West 21st Street
between 6th and 7th Aves.
Room 602C

Social Hour 12:00 noon

Bring your lunch!

Show & Tell 12:30 pm

Bring your latest work. See what everyone else has been doing!

Program begins 1:00 pm

Bring back your library books!



MUSEUM & GALLERIES

Noho M55 Gallery
530 West 25th Street, NY, NY
212-367-7063
<http://www.nohogallery.net/>

Seasons

hand-felted, resist-dyed, stitched constructions
May 14–June 1, 2019
Reception: Saturday, May 18, 4–6 pm
Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11–6 pm



Erma Martin Yost graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, with an M.A. in painting and ceramics. In 2018 Yost had a solo show at Visions Art Museum: Contemporary Quilts + Textiles, San Diego, CA. Her work is in numerous public collections including the Museum of Art and Design in New York City, the Newark Museum, the Hunterdon Museum, the Morris Museum, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Yost received fellowships from New Jersey Council on the Arts in 1991 and 1999. She has had more than 28 solo exhibitions and is featured in more than 21 books. For more examples of Yost's work visit ermamartinyost.com.

NEW HGA FIBER CALENDAR

HGA invites guilds, galleries, museums, and other fiber arts related organizations to list their fiber art related events on the HGA website's new Fiber Calendar. The calendar is a comprehensive listing of Conferences, exhibits, festivals, seminars, tours, workshops and calls for artists. The calendar is



searchable by keyword and date. Visit the calendar: <https://weavespindye.org/calendar/>

F+W MEDIA FILES BANKRUPTCY

F+W Media, the major craft publisher, and parent company of Interweave Press, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on March 10, 2019. F+W Media publishes over 50 niche hobby magazines, including Handwoven and Spin Off. In enacting Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy code, Congress concluded that it is sometimes the case that the value of a business is greater if sold or reorganized as a going concern than if the business's assets were to be sold off individually. It follows that it may be more economically efficient to allow a troubled company to continue running, cancel some of its debts, and give ownership of the newly reorganized company to the creditors whose debts were canceled. Alternatively, the business can be sold as a going concern with the net proceeds of the sale distributed to creditors in accordance with statutory priorities. In this way, jobs may be saved, the (previously mismanaged)



engine of profitability which is the business is maintained (presumably under better management) rather than being dismantled, and, as a proponent of a chapter 11 plan is required to demonstrate as a precursor to plan confirmation, the business's creditors end up with more money than they would in a Chapter 7 liquidation.

CEO Gregory Osberg cites the decade long decline in the market for print magazines as a contributing factor. Osberg also details a mismanaged effort to shift the company's focus from media to ecommerce during that same time period. F+W invested in merchandise to sell

online, leased warehouses, and spent money on marketing, fulfillment, and customer service, all of which was at what Osberg describes as "tremendous cost to the Company, both in terms of monetary loss and the deterioration of customer relationships." The new F+W website is specifically mentioned in the filing as employing technology that "was unnecessary or flawed." In 2018 F+W's crafts division spent approximately \$6 million on its ecommerce business to make only \$3 million in revenue.

When an attempted restructuring in the spring of 2017 failed to improve the situation, the board of directors terminated the CEO and some executives, and appointed Osberg CEO. He determined that ecommerce was the company's worst-performing channel. F+W went through two rounds of layoffs, decreasing the workforce by about 40%. Cash was set to run out by April 2018. F+W sold Keepsake magazine for \$2.45 million and Blade, a knife collector magazine and trade show, for \$4.34 million, so they could continue to operate.

As revenue declined and cash was predicted to run out by October 2018. F+W sold the Martha Pullen brand and The Original Sewing & Quilting Expo to Hoffman Media for \$1.54 million, in an effort to stabilize the company's cash position. They also moved fulfillment to a third-party vendor and ramped up digital advertising. Although these efforts helped some, cash was again going to run out in the first quarter of 2019.

F+W is divided into two business lines: Communities and F+W Books. Communities include the magazines, websites, membership platforms, online learning, and ecommerce portions of the business. The Crafts Community is the company's largest, representing approximately \$32.5 million of the Communities' total \$67.7 million in revenue. The portfolio includes Interweave, Quilting Arts, Sew News, Knitscene, Beadwork, Fons & Porter, among many others. F+W Books was established as a separate division in September 2018. It publishes new 120 books a year and has a backlist of 2,100 titles. Interweave, The Quilting Company, Krause Publications, SewandSo, and North Light are all imprints of F+W.

The company will continue to operate while trying to sell its assets, with the goal of selling F+W Books by the

end of May and the Communities by the middle of June. If this effort is successful, new owners will be responsible for the future of the books and the communities. Proceeds of the sale would be used to pay off some of F+W's debts; the company itself would likely cease to exist.

F+W was founded in 1913 in Cincinnati, Ohio as a publisher of magazines for farmers and writers. The company was owned by the Rosenthal family until 1999. Although F+W Media's future is uncertain, the successful sale of Keepsake, Blade, Martha Pullen brand, and the Original Sewing and Quilting Expo to new owners, and the strong and growing interest in hand crafts and in weaving, knitting and spinning specifically, make Handwoven and SpinOff magazines attractive investments for new owners.

VIV FULTON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR WEAVING

CNY Fiber Arts Festival is proud to announce the first annual Viv Fulton Memorial Award for excellence in weaving. Viv was a much-loved and vital member of the CNY Fiber Arts family; she owned Rhodie Hill Farms. In her honor, the organization behind the festival will be awarding a cash prize every year for the finest handwoven product submitted to our competition.



Weaving judge, Joyce Robards has been engaged to judge the contest. She will be coming to the festival site in Bouckville on Friday, June 7th to assess the entries. The winning entry will be announced at the festival and the entries will be on display throughout the festival weekend (June 8th and 9th). A scribe will be on hand during the judging, so all entrants will receive thoughtful feedback on their work.

The competition is open to teens and adults. Entries must be handwoven by the entrant and must contain at least 50% natural animal fiber. Individuals may submit multiple entries. There are no limitations on size of entries. There is no entry fee.

Entries must either be mailed to:
Denise Tarbox, 2511 Howard Hill Road, Newark Valley,
NY 13811 by June 1, 2019 or delivered to the festival
site 6893 U.S. Route 20, Bouckville, New York on Friday,
June 7, 2019, between 9 am and 10am. Entries may be
picked up at the festival on Sunday, June 9, 2019.
Anyone unable to collect their entry should submit a
mailing label with the entry.

An entry form will be appearing soon on
<http://www.cnyfiberarts.org/>. Please direct any
questions to sdтарbox@frontier.com. - Pamela Haendle

FARM AND FIBER RESOURCE PROCESSING LIST



The Central New York Fiber Artists and Producers has a
20-page resource directory of yarns, fleeces (alpaca,
cashmere, wool) fiber processors, tool makers, fiber
animals, spinning guilds, and instructors on their
website. Please note that the guide is dated 2014, so
some listings may be outdated.
<http://www.cnyfiberarts.org/guide.php>

MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN ARTIST STUDIO PROGRAMS

The Artist Studios program hosts artists and designers
daily in open studios. Artists- in-residence receive space
and support to develop new work and expand their
practice, while welcoming dialogue with the public

about their processes, materials, and concepts.
Founded in 2008, the program has provided studio
space and financial support to over 160 artists-in-
residence working in a range of interdisciplinary media.
The Artist Studios program offers one full-time MAD
Artist Fellowship and six daily residencies per six-month
session (February—July, August—January).



The full-time MAD Artist Fellow receive a \$15,000
stipend and dedicated studio space, in which they work
forty hours each week (formatted as fifteen "open
studio" hours and twenty-five "closed studio" hours).
Fellows are provided with additional professional
development opportunities and meet regularly with a
mentor in their creative field. The MAD Artist Fellow
also benefits from a culminating Fellow Focus exhibition
in the 6th Floor Project Space. The six daily residents are
assigned one day to work each week (Tuesday—
Sunday) throughout the duration of the six-month cycle,
for which they receive access to shared studio space
and a stipend of \$125 per studio shift.

Daily residents also have the option of working a
selection of Thursday evenings. Program Benefits
Applications are currently open for the August 2019—
January 2020 cycle. Apply [here](#) before Thursday, April
18, 2019 at 11:59 pm EST. Interested applicants are also
invited to attend an [Artist Studios Info Session](#) on
Saturday, March 23. To be notified about future open
calls, join the [Artist Studios mailing list](#).

MAFA SPOTLIGHT ON FASHION



The Fashion Committee is thrilled that more than 50 MAFA participants indicated an interest in submitting a garment or accessory to the Fashion Exhibit and show! We look forward to receiving entry forms for the exhibit over the next two months -- the deadline to enter is April 30, 2019. Conference participants, don't hesitate to contact the committee at fashion.show@mafafiber.org if you have any questions regarding your submission. As a reminder, all submissions will be included in the Exhibit. A selection will be included in the Fashion Show. More information and a link to the Entry Form <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2019/schedule-events/fashion-exhibit/>



Fiber Artist Exhibit "Threads of Communication" is the theme for the first 2019 MAFA Conference Fiber Artist Exhibit. Express an event, story, message, or conversation through the use of fibers. The artwork does not have to be a literal interpretation, an abstract approach may be used. All entries must be submitted by

midnight April 30, 2019. Please contact the Fiber Arts Exhibit Coordinator, Wendy Roberts with any questions at arts.exhibit@mafafiber.org Find entry details and guidelines on the website here: <https://mafafiber.org/conferences/mafa2019/schedule-events/artist-exhibit-threads-of-communication/>

REPURPOSING A HAIR TOOL FOR FRINGE

Some of our guildmates, having tired of fringe twisting manually or using hand crank twisters, have been experimenting with using battery-operated hair "braiding" tools to make fringe.



Terry Henley and Carol Steuer are both enthusiastic about this method. Carol reports that the twisters are available on Amazon under a variety of brand names. Carol recommends the black one, which can twist forward and backwards, and reports that the pink Conair model only twists in one direction and is not as good. [Amazon link](#)



To use, cut the warp 3" longer than the knot. Insert half the ends into each red twister. **Left photo:** press the switch up and count the rotations until the fringe is tight (15-20). **Right photo:** press the switch down to twist the two halves together. Stop when the twist reaches the center bar, pinch with one hand and release the ends with the other hand. Tie knot. Trim all the ends with a rotary cutter. The process is faster, the fringe is always consistent and it has no kinks.

PETER'S VALLEY REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER SESSION IS OPEN

Peters Valley School of Craft is located within the picturesque Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Nestled in the midst of the beauty are state of the art studios with workshops run by professional artists from around the country. Each studio is managed by a Department Head or Seasonal Artist Fellow, assisted by a volunteer studio assistant. I'm a proud alumnus of Peter's Valley, where I had my first class with Takako Ueki, of Habu Textiles.



Participants range in age from 18 to 80, beginner through advanced, from all walks of life. All studios break for meals at the same time and everyone comes together to share in their experience. Visiting other studios in the evening is encouraged and Friday night instructor presentations give everyone an incredible insight into the process and work of all of the visiting artists. Weekly auctions are held on Mondays at 1pm and all of the money raised goes to support the studio assistants while raising money to purchase new equipment for the studios.

This summer, 24 different fiber workshops are offered, in felting, weaving, fabric marbling, Inkle weaving, free form crochet, cyanotype, pickup inkle weaving and basketry as wearable art. Most are 3 to 5 days long. Please visit the online catalogue for information and registration.

<http://petersvalleyworkshops.bigcartel.com/category/adult-workshops-fibers>

-Gail Gondek

ENDANGERED THREADS ON YOU TUBE



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-u103dwCbfQtMaRGkaxdmQ/videos>

The YouTube channel Endangered Threads has a selection of over 2 dozen documentaries, in English or Spanish, about indigenous Mayan and Guatemalan weavers. Please follow the above link for hours of entertainment.

NYGH MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

If you would like a 2018-2019 NYGH Membership Roster, please email your request to Terry Henley, Membership Chair, at membership@nyhandweavers.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The NYGH is pleased to welcome the following new members to the guild: Penny Williams and Connie McKeige. We are looking forward to getting to know you!

NEW NYGH BOARD MEMBER

Welcome, Charlene Marietti, our new newsletter editor! She will take over in September.



2018-2019 GUILD CALENDAR

March 30, 2019

Ed Bing Lee:

What Knots

April 27, 2019

Carol Chave:

Tapestry as Story from Antiquity to Today

Coming next month....

The 2019-20 speaker calendar

SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Ravelry](#)

[Weavolution](#)

MAILING ADDRESS:

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<http://nyhandweavers.org/contact>

NEED SUPPLIES?

Sign up for Guild Rewards so NYGH gets 5% of every purchase at [Halcyon Yarn](#)

Use this link for automatic 5% guild rewards at [The Woolery](#)