



New York Threads

The Newsletter of
The New York Guild of Handweavers

Next meeting—Saturday, May 18, 2024. 11 am–3 pm

Gail Gondek

Pibiones & Oriental Knotted Rugs—Plain Weave Pile Structures

A weaver in Azerbaijan taught me to weave oriental hand-knotted rugs by using a rigid heddle setup that she MacGyvered in her home. She also demonstrated the specialized knife hook and beater tools used throughout the Middle East and South Caucasus region of Eurasia, which I used in making my samples.

My Iranian weaving teacher, who doesn't speak English, showed me how to lash the warp of my upright loom to a heddle stick. The first time I did it, my lashing was good, but I put the stick on the wrong side of the warp! If she had seen that mistake, my teacher probably would have said, "As-salamu alaykum!" which she says at the beginning and end of every weaving lesson. (It means "Peace be upon you.")

Sardinia, Italy's second largest island, is where I found my Pibiones (little grapes) teachers. Pibiones is a plain weave ground with supplemental pile weft, often used for trim on towels, bed linens, and pillows. The technique is also woven by the Acadians of Eastern Canada, where it is known as Boutonne. The weaver follows a graph to create a textured design in loops on a plain or twill ground. It's tedious but well worth the effort.



Curiously, I've never been to Azerbaijan, or Iran, or Sardinia. How did I learn Oriental knotted and Boutonne weaving techniques without traveling to my teachers? I found them online! Please join me and I'll show you how I met my teachers, and what I learned from them. See you then!

Gail Gondek first learned to weave from Takako Ueki at Peter's Valley in 2005. Since then, she has read about and looked at many textiles and has woven only a few herself. She likes oddities and has woven with horsehair, celery, and beads, although not in the same warp. She is the Program Chair for the New York Guild of Handweavers and lives in Manhattan with her spotted dog Purl.

MEETING DETAILS

School of Visual Arts (SVA)
132 West 21st Street, Room 418F
(NYC, between 6th and 7th Aves.)

A Hybrid Meeting**

From 11 am: Arrive/Log In

11 am: Weaving Social Hour & Help

12 Noon: Show & Tell

1 pm: Program

Bring back your library books!

Want to borrow a book?

[Email Guild Librarian Gail Gondek](mailto:gail@nygh.org)

****Zoom Code of Conduct**

The NYGH guild offers a safe and welcoming environment to listen, learn, and share ideas. To this end, we ask participants not to operate a motor vehicle while attending our guild meetings and events remotely via Zoom.



MEMBER NEWS

HEALLREAF 5

Guild member Fannie Lee's striking tapestry "*I" Matter* was accepted into Heallreaf 5 in the UK. The exhibition will be held at three different locations:

June 29, 2024 to August 29, 2024—Weston Park, Shropshire

December 10, 2024 to December 20, 2024—Morley Gallery, London

January 8, 2025 to April 6, 2025—Farfield Mill, Cumbria

The tapestry is 9'5" x 9.5". Cotton seine warp, wool weft, antique lace, Chinese funerary paper, fox fur.



Join us for Weaving Social Hour at 11 a.m. before the meeting

In-person and via Zoom

Come to socialize, bring your weaving questions, share your favorite books, and make new friends. Feel free to bring your portable fiber project and lunch.

Share Your Work at Show & Tell

To share your project at the hybrid meeting:

1. Select one item and take 2–3 photos (jpg, png) of it. One over-all photo plus close-up(s).
2. Label photos with first and last name and permission to share on social media.
3. Email to NYGH.info@gmail.com

Deadline: Midnight, May 16, 2024

Assembled photos will be shared in a slide show in which each project owner shares their experiences in turn. Those at the meeting have the advantage of examining the work in person.

When sharing, remember to use these talking points are:

- Weave structure
- Fiber(s)
- Number of shafts
- What did you learn?

Looking for a Weaving/Spinning/Fiber Book?

The NYGH Library has many textile and weaving books, as well as magazines, available for loans. [Email the librarian](#) for assistance.

Looking for your own copy of a weaving / spinning / fiber book? A good source for used books is [Thrift Books](#). Search 'weaving' to find hundreds of used books to choose from. You can also set up a free account, then put a title on your wish list and get notified when a copy is available. Reasonable prices and shipping.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Shannon Robert Bowen	Tamara Nadolny
Lori Breslauer	Erin Rouse
Carolyn Coates	Daphne Steele
Daniela Lucchetto	Martha Westbrook

MEMBER NEWS

THE GOLDEN THREAD

Guild member Katy Clements took some stunning pictures at the Golden Thread exhibit. The first one is called *Fire*, by Liz Collins, and the second one is *Butterfly Effect*, by Robin Kang.

The Golden Thread brings together over 100 artworks by 61 international artists and artist collectives--too many to list, but an impressive roster--that treat textiles as a medium perfectly tailored to our distracted and anxious times. The artworks run the gamut—from foursquare pictures to three-dimensional artworks, from freestanding sculptures to editioned rugs, from hanging tapestries to immersive environments. These wildly varied artworks occupy four floors of a landmark 18th century warehouse.



The New York Guild of Handweavers MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:

by Katy Clements

Jeff Smith

NYGH member Jeff Smith likes to create and doesn't like to sleep. By day, he leads artificial intelligence research and development teams that define the state-of-the-art for the field. As part of that work, he's launched new products, founded and grown companies, and written technical papers and books. He was a key leader behind the PyTorch open source deep learning framework that now powers most of the technologies we now call AI. On nights and weekends, he has created a lot of work for the stage including several produced and published plays as well as various contemporaneous classical music pieces and albums with the Ferrous Ensemble and at Juilliard. Lately, his interests in textiles have led him to study weaving at the Textile Arts Center, fashion design at FIT, and shepherding as a volunteer sheep steward on Governors Island.

<https://www.jeffsmith.ink/>



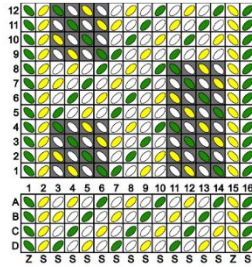
FIBER NEWS

TABLET WEAVING RESOURCES

As a follow-up to April's talk on tablet weaving, here are a few helpful links. Remember to send your work in for Show & Tell!



©Tabletweavingintheoryandpractice.co.uk



[Online Draft Designer](#)

Create your own tablet weaving designs with this easy-to-use online tool. To get the most out of the tool, click on "Instructions" and then run the video. The site's [blog](#) has many beautiful examples with drafts.

[Tablet Weaving Made Easy](#)

John Mullarky

18 online lessons \$39.99

Tips for the best tablet-weaving tools and materials, how to read a tablet-weaving draft, warping, managing selvages, fixing mistakes and more.

[Tablet Weaving for the Absolute Beginner](#)

YouTube video by Elewys of Finchingefeld explains tablet weaving from start to finish, including designing, warping, and weaving.

[NYGH Library Books](#)

We have two books in the guild library:

Cardweaving by Candance Crockett

Weaving Bands by Liv Trotzig and Astrid Axelsson

[Email](#) the librarian to borrow these books.

FARM & FIBER KNITS

From the publisher of *Handwoven*, the premier issue of Farm & Fiber Knits is packed with farm-fresh knitting stories and designs. Journey around the world and immerse yourself in beautiful landscapes and locations while you find your next must-knit project.

As you flip through the pages, you'll meet shepherds, yarn-makers, and designers dedicated to sustainability, stewardship, and promoting the handmade life—and find out how you can support their work.

Then, follow natural fiber from its source on farms and islands through small mills that create yarn into the hands of knitters and designers.

Next, discover the legacies of twisted-stitch knitting, colorwork, and garment design, and get an exclusive look at the imaginative textile and ecology work of knitting legends Alice and Jade Starmore.



Along these inviting farm-to-needle stories and features, you'll get 10 original designs from renowned designers such as Meg Swansen, Deborah Newton, Gudrun Johnston, Védís Jónsdóttir, and more. Ships June 2024. Included with Long Thread Media All Access print subscriptions.

FIBER NEWS

NEW SUCCESS FOR TEXTILE ARTIST

Venues across the U.S. and beyond are giving Liz Collins, who first found fame as a fashion designer, the art-world recognition that had eluded her.



TEXTILES ARE ALL THE RAGE IN THE ART WORLD

Two major exhibitions celebrate how the simple act of weaving can be filled with sophistication, beauty and meaning.



Don't miss a thing!

Subscribe to the NY Guild of Handweaver's YouTube channel to access Inspiring interviews in Member Spotlights and practical information

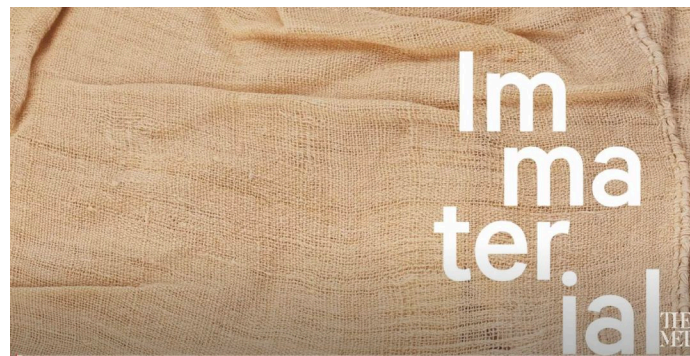
SONIA DELAUNAY'S WEARABLE ABSTRACTIONS

A steamer trunk worth of clothing and textiles by the French-Ukrainian artist reveals the sartorial origins of abstraction.



IMMATERIAL: A PODCAST

Take a spin through The Met and you'll find thousands of items made from linen. From a 3,500 year old sheet from Ancient Egypt, to a Giorgio Armani suit from the 1980s, linen has been a symbol of wealth and authority. But it's also been a tool for the oppression and exploitation of enslaved people in the American South, and an engine of work and comfort in the Victorian era. Suit up as we undress the legacy of linen through its complex, layered symbolism.



NEW FIBER BOOKS

The Book of Colour Concepts

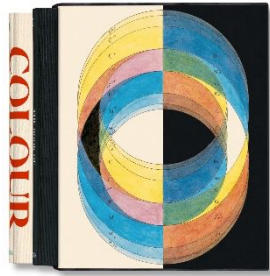
By Alexandra Loske

\$ 200

Release date: May 2024

Taschen Publishing

Two volumes in slipcase,
846 pages



From the 17th century to the advent of the digital age, color theories have been illustrated with opulent wheels, polychrome charts, and meticulous diagrams. Gathering over 65 works from around the world, with more than 1,000 images, this edition traces the many hues of a subject that inspired Newton, Goethe, Sanzō Wada, the Bauhaus, and many more.

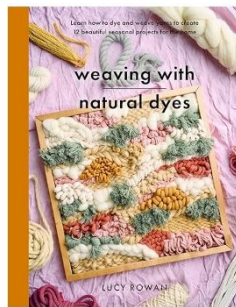
Weaving with Natural Dyes: Learn how to dye and weave yarns to create 12 beautiful seasonal projects for home

by Lucy Rowan

\$24.95

Published by White Owl

Release date May 2024



Weaving with Natural Dyes is a comprehensive guide to the art of weaving with eco-friendly, natural dyes. Authored by textile designer and weaver Lucy Rowan, this book features 12 stunning woven projects with step-by-step imagery that will inspire and guide weavers of all skill levels.

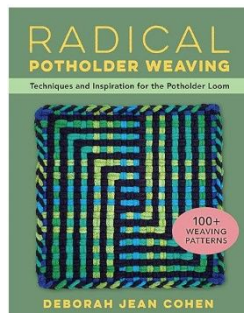
Radical Potholder Weaving: Techniques and Inspiration for the Potholder Loom

by Deborah Jean Cohen

\$26.95

Published by Stackpole

Released July 2024



Inside this book you'll find more than 100 patterns for your potholder looms: in plain weave, shadow weave, and twill. The majority of these are new, never charted for the small loom before, and the rest are strong classic patterns

chosen to complete the collection. One chapter teaches you how to convert floor loom drafts for the potholder loom, reverse engineer any potholder, and chart your own design. Others introduce you to intriguing weaving techniques.

Pick-Up Bandweaving Designs

By Heather Torgenrud

Published by Schiffer

\$30.00

Release date: Aug 2024



A pattern and color sourcebook for weavers, featuring 288 brand new patterns for Baltic-style technique and 70 samples unleashing the power of color choices. Whether you weave bands on an inkle loom, a Scandinavian band heddle, or even a floor loom, this go-to reference stands the test of time for ideas and inspiration.

The Joy of Weaving: Modern Frame Loom Projects for Beginners & Beyond

by Jennifer Duffin

\$22.99

Published by Page Street

Release date Sept 2024



The weaving game just got a whole lot more vibrant. Jen Duffin, one of the best modern weavers—known for her colorful, tactile woven work—is finally gracing us with a how-to book explaining the secrets behind her most popular designs. No one is too much of a beginner for this book; Jen teaches us foundational techniques such as warping your loom and must-have stitches. Hone your skills on small weavings with simple techniques used in creative ways, such as the geometric hues and party weaves, before moving on to mid-sized masterpieces and larger works.

MUSEUMS, EXHIBITIONS, AND EVENTS

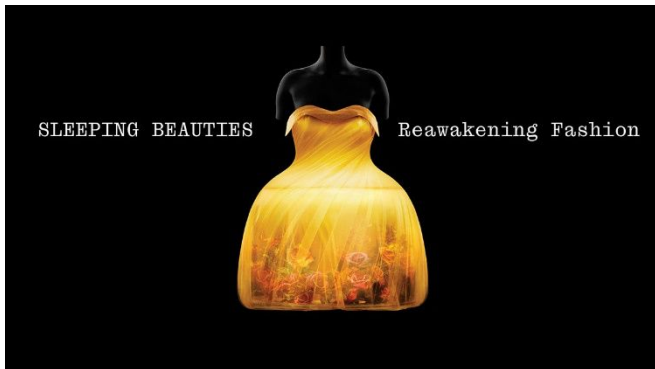


Anni Albers. Pasture, 1958. © Metropolitan Museum of Art

WEAVING ABSTRACTION IN ANCIENT AND MODERN ART

The Met Fifth Avenue
Through June 16, 2024

Two extraordinary bodies of work separated by at least 500 years are brought together to explore the striking connections between artists of the ancient Andes and those of the 20th century. The exhibition displays textiles by four distinguished modern practitioners—Anni Albers, Sheila Hicks, Lenore Tawney, and Olga de Amaral—alongside pieces by Andean artists from the first millennium BCE to the 16th century.



Jun Takahashi. Dress, spring/summer 2024. Courtesy Undercover. Photography © Nick Knight, 2024

SLEEPING BEAUTIES: REAWAKENING FASHION

The Met Fifth Avenue
Through Sept 2, 2024

The Costume Institute's spring 2024 exhibition, *Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion*, will

reactivate the sensory capacities of masterworks in the Museum's collection through first-hand research, conservation analysis, and diverse technologies—from cutting-edge tools, artificial intelligence, and computer-generated imagery to traditional formats of x-rays, video animation, light projection, and soundscapes.

Approximately 250 garments and accessories spanning four centuries will be on view, visually united by iconography related to nature, which will serve as a metaphor for the fragility and ephemerality of fashion and a vehicle to examine the cyclical themes of rebirth and renewal.



SONYA CLARK

WE ARE EACH OTHER

Museum of Arts and Design
Columbus Circle
Through Sept 22, 2024

Highlighting thirty years of artmaking dedicated to the Black experience in America, *Sonya Clark: We Are Each Other* is the first comprehensive survey of the communal art projects that form the heart of the artist's pioneering creative practice. Accompanied by a selection of Clark's photographs, prints, and sculpture, the exhibition features five of Clark's large-scale, collaborative projects, including her barrier-breaking *The Hair Craft Project* (2014) and the ongoing performance, *Unraveling*.

EXHIBITS IN NEW JERSEY



The Story of Newark Fashion: Atelier to Runway

Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
Through June 2, 2024

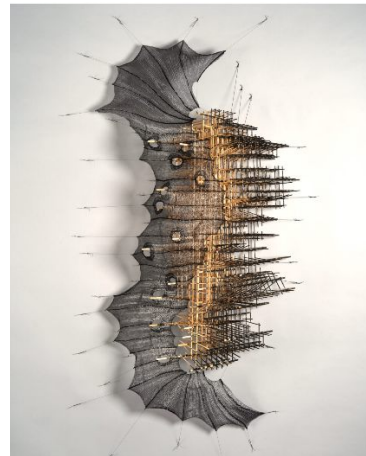
Beginning in the ateliers and classrooms of Wesley Tann and Emily Miles, groundbreaking Black designers and mentors for the next generation, this survey features nine contemporary designers with Newark connections. With its rich history as an epicenter for the production and trade of garments, jewelry, and accessories, Newark has long been a site of creativity and innovation. A generation of inspiration has come out of the Brick City, influencing fashion designers globally.



Jan Huling: Everything is Alive

Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ
Through May 26, 2024

With her background in commercial design, Jan Huling cultivates a remarkable artistic practice transforming everyday objects into wonderfully whimsical works of art. Her beadwork heightens our experience of shape, color, and form. Her visual storytelling transports us to a fantastic world where fairy tales, myths, and mystery collide.



Mo Kelman, *River in the Sky*

Uncontained: Reimagining Basketry

Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton, NJ
May 19 - September 1, 2024

Challenging and reimagining our collective understanding of basketry as a practice, these 14 artists reflect an expanding terrain that encompasses a range of concepts and approaches.



Joyce J. Scott. *Harriet Tubman as Buddha*, 2017.

Century: 100 Years of Black Art at MAM

Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
Through July 7, 2024

This exhibition celebrates the dramatic growth of MAM's collection of works by Black artists. *Century* is organized around six major themes that highlight how art has long been a living, generative force in Black life: *Black Portraiture*, *African Diasporic Consciousness*, *Archival Memory*, *Abstraction*, *Black Mythologies*, *Black Joy and Leisure*.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITS



©Alberto Levi Gallery

Mixed Media: Woven Abstractions of the Berber Women

Alberto Levi Gallery, Milan

An exhibit of Moroccan rugs woven by Berber women for domestic purposes. These are often constructed by employing a range of materials, using the precious wool sparingly, and only when necessary towards the completion of what appear as very personal aesthetic projects. As an alternative to wool, these women utilize a plethora of materials, often as a textural ingredient, but also as a source of improbable color.



Bindelli Wedding Dress

Wedding dress

Uzbeck Entar, Shoivar, and Blouse

©Met Museum

Ottoman Wedding Dresses, East to West

Met Museum

Beginning in the 19th century and into the 20th century, wedding dresses worn by women from different religious and ethnic groups in the Ottoman Empire document a pivotal moment in the transition from traditional dress to European fashion for women in the empire. Looking at these dresses together allows us to follow a dramatic change in dress and the range of styles, constructions, and decorations in a stunningly beautiful group of garments.

Two exhibits from the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection at Drexel University



Elsa Schiaparelli is credited with launching the fashion for padded shoulders in the early 1930's.

Immortal Beauty

Dresses and accessories from 1780 to 2013 are showcased in this slide show.



1966 evening dress by James Galanos

Philadelphia in Style: A Century of Fashion

Explore the rich legacy of a city that has played a significant role in the development of American fashion. Nineteenth century Philadelphia was a well-established center of textile manufacturing and home to several successful women's magazines, such as the *Ladies Home Journal* that served to establish Philadelphia as an authority of fashion and taste.

SUMMERTIME FUN

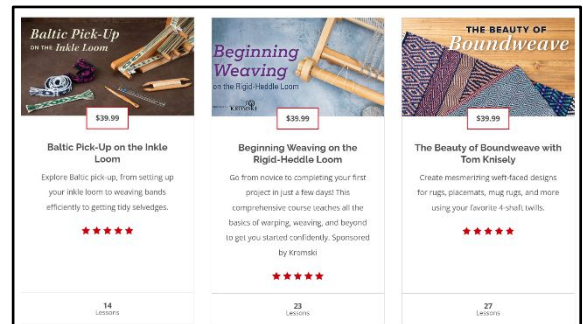
If you're looking for weaving instruction this summer, you can take advantage of classes offered online.



Jane Stafford is an extraordinary teacher who can clarify and simplify weaving for weavers at every skill level. She brings her sense of humor and wisdom to every class she teaches and has been named *Handwoven's* Teacher of the Year. Jane has created her JST Online Guild with 10 learning episodes a year starting with the very basics. Membership is \$99.99 per year, and members are entitled to view all lessons in the library as many times as they like. There are currently 8 seasons available, with 8-10 lessons on each topic, supported with downloadable PDF patterns. For more information: <http://www.janestaffordtextiles.com>

Long Thread Media, publisher of *Handwoven Magazine*, offers over 25 video workshops and 100 streaming videos on weaving, spinning, dyeing, felting and needlework. Well-known names such as Tom Knisely, John Mullarkey, Madelyn van der Hoogt, Jennifer Moore, Laura Fry, Diane Totten and Robyn Spady are some of your instructors. The "All Access" subscription (\$199.99) includes unlimited access to these videos, print and digital access to the magazine and unlimited downloads from their WIF library. Workshops are also available to purchase individually.

<https://learn.longthreadmedia.com/collections?category=courses>



Rebecca Mezoff's online tapestry classes are the gold standard for online instruction. Rebecca offers 10 tapestry classes- Intro to Tapestry, Weaving Tapestry on Little Looms, Warp and Weft, Color Gradation Techniques, Four Selvedge Warping and several design and dyeing classes. Some classes are recorded, while others are live on Zoom. All of Rebecca's classes feature lifetime access and lifetime membership in her Facebook weaving group, where you can share your work, ask questions of other students and Rebecca. She's actively involved in the group and responds to questions. Prices range from \$39 for Intro to Tapestry Weaving, to \$595 for a full program of study equivalent to a college level art course. <https://rebeccamezoff.com/>

Craftsy offers 21 weaving and spinning workshops, between 24 minutes and 8 hours long. Topics include rigid heddle looms, floor and table looms, pickup stick techniques, spinning basics, plying, and art yarns. All-access membership is \$11/month or \$113/year. There are also classes on quilting, sewing, knitting, crochet, drawing, embroidery, jewelry making, cooking, cake making and more.

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



RESOURCES

2023-2024 PROGRAMS

September 30, 2023

Alexa Griffith and Susan Brown

A Dark, A Light, A Bright: The Designs of Dorothy Liebes

October 28, 2023

Jill Foxman Staubitz

Summer and Winter Workshop

December 2, 2023

Holiday Party

January 27, 2024

Katte Geneta

Narra Studio: Textiles of the Philippines

February 24, 2024

Lily Hope

Chilkat Weaving

March 23, 2024

Robin Kang

Core Memory: Woven Technologies of the Past and Future

April 20, 2024

Marilyn Romatka

Card Trick: The Magic of Tablet Weaving

May 18, 2024

Gail Gondek

Pibiones and Oriental Knotted Rugs: Plain Weave Pile Structures

SOCIAL MEDIA



Halcyon & The Woolery Reward Programs Benefit NYGH

Reward programs at Halcyon and The Woolery help underwrite guild programs and activities with an annual cash rebate equivalent to 5% of members' purchases.

To link your orders with the Guild when you shop, click on [Halcyon](#) and [The Woolery](#).

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Questions or information to share? Contact us at
NYGH.info@gmail.com

President: Carol Steuer

Vice President: Carie Kramer

Secretary: Ria Koopmans

Treasurer: Oren Redinger

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Programs: Gail Gondek

Publicity: Gigi Matthews

Librarian: Gail Gondek, NYGH.librarian@gmail.com

CLASSES and WORKSHOPS IN THE REGION

[Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center](#), York Haven, PA

Year-round workshops and classes across a wide range of fiber arts, including weaving and spinning.
[Retail store](#) onsite.

[Tatter](#), 505 Carroll Street Suite 2B, Brooklyn, NY

Main emphasis on stitchery, but some classes on dyeing and spinning.

[Textile Arts Center](#)

505 Carroll St., Brooklyn. 11515

[Vävstuga Weaving School](#), Shelburne, MA

Workshops and classes in the tradition of Swedish weaving schools.

WEAVING SUPPLIES IN THE BOROUGHES

[FABSCRAP](#)

Limited weaving supplies. In-store shopping by appointment. Online shop.

[Loop of the Loom](#)

Yarn, classes, dyeing materials.

[Woolyn](#)

Yarn, classes, notions.