



Welcome to the December newsletter



Seasonal Closing Times

This year we will not be posting out orders between the 22nd and 29th December (unless it is for digital kits or gift vouchers which are delivered online) although you will still be able to place orders. So there are a couple more weeks to pick up last minute supplies or gifts.

Continental Bobbins now available

We are delighted to be adding continental bobbins made by Master bobbin maker Andrew Dickinson to our regular range of bobbins. These bobbins are available in six different woods and are 165mm/6.5" long and weigh 30gm with a brass tip. So they are the same length as a medium bobbin but have the weight of a large bobbin for effective beating down. The width of the head is almost twice the size of our regular metal-tipped medium bobbins. Here are a few examples but the full range can be seen [here](#)



Needle Cases

Andrew Dickinson has also made available a few of his very special and rare needle cases and needle pods. These are made from the same base and stabilised woods as his bobbins and have brass thread inserts. Each is completely individual and unique and cannot be repeated. Here are a couple of examples but the full collection can be seen [here](#)



Ordering from Europe

Packages going to Europe have started experiencing problems with taking time to arrive as Covid-19 issues increase, so going forward all packages will be sent tracked and if they are large then they will be sent by courier. European postal rates have been adjusted a little to cover this change. After January 1st and the end of the transition period for Brexit we hope that posting to Europe will be business as usual but all

posted parcels will have to clear customs and it is not clear at the moment whether the EU will impose customs charges on small parcels or set a ceiling based on value for goods, as is the case in the US, so that nothing below that ceiling is charged a customs duty. We will let you know as soon as we know.

Sponsorship 2021

To start the New Year with a renewed sense of optimism we are restarting our sponsorship scheme whereby we donate materials, support or small amounts of funding to selected projects which support the following criteria

- engage a community to actively participate in weaving,
- support the development of novice weavers, or
- actively and practically bring weaving to a new group of people

There is a short form to complete to be considered for sponsorship which can be found [here](#) (under the sponsorship heading) previous projects supported by the scheme can also be seen here. The deadline for submitting a request is January 31st and we will announce selected projects in the February newsletter. If you have any questions on the scheme please email info@weaversbazaar.com. Here's hoping that we can all be more than solitary weavers in 2021!

Online courses from weaversbazaar in 2021

We will be offering two online courses going forward into 2021. The first is a Tree Weaving Workshop by Zoom taught by Jackie Bennet and the second is a video version of Margaret Jones' Pod Weaving Course (find out more about Margaret in A Day in the Weave of ... section below).

The zoom course will take place at a set time of day (suitable for Europe and the USA) and will be taught live by Jackie with a kit of materials having been sent out in advance to participants. The course includes guidance notes. Dates for these sessions will be released in January.

The video Pod Weaving Course is now available. It can be booked online [here](#) and then students will receive an email with a link to the video and the additional materials. This course can be stopped and started as often as needed by students. The video will remain available to the students for at least 2 years and potentially longer assuming the technology stays the same. So this is a different way of taking the course without having to be available on a specific day at a specific time.

We are not planning any face to face courses at present for 2021 but will continue to review the situation.

weaversbazaar's website Poll: How do you store your yarns?



The final results of November's poll (see below) on how you store your yarns make it clear that there is quite a range of solutions in use for storing yarn. More people are using plastic boxes than any other single category but other types of boxes are also being used. After that open shelving came next followed by bags and drawers with a few people using spool racks or other bespoke storage. If you are not familiar with the article by Lin "All about Moths" in the Library Section of the Knowledge Zone of the weaversbazaar website here <https://tinyurl.com/ybngpxpb> then it might be worth reading it to make sure you are protecting your yarn and your tapestries in the best way whilst they are being stored.

Yarn storage poll results

On open shelves 21.7%

In plastic boxes 30.7%

In bags 16.9%

In purpose designed/built bespoke storage 4.2%

As free hanging hanks 3.7%

On a spool rack 2.6%

In drawers 9.5%

In non-plastic boxes 10.6%

This month the topic for the poll continues with the theme of yarn and is about how you organise your yarns? The poll is on the home page as usual at <https://tinyurl.com/mbay9mk>.

Thank you all very much for your valuable feedback on the content of the newsletter. If you have any further thoughts on any of the topics we cover we would love to receive your feedback at info@weaversbazaar.com.

Courses and Events

As some physically present courses and events are beginning to be advertised due to the changing situation but others continue to be virtual at least for the time being, we will continue to highlight and include here both types of courses and events - those which are only virtual and ones available to attend once again in person.

Foliage, Flowers, and Lichen. 27 August – 3 September 2021. La Roane, France.



Tapestry Weaving workshop in the beautiful, peaceful surroundings of La Roane in south west France with experienced and inspiring tutors Jane Brunning and Louise Martin. For more details contact Jane at jane.brunning@virgin.net or Louise via her website at <https://tinyurl.com/we2v9sa>. More information on La Roane here <https://tinyurl.com/y56o66mj>.

Nearly Wild Weaving - Tapestry Together 2021. Introductory Session 7 -8 pm 13 January 2021. Online.

Starting in the New Year Nearly Wild Weaving will be leading some online sessions for tapestry weavers. In this first session the concept of Tapestry Together will be explained and ideas shared for topics going forward. The first discussion will look at techniques used when designing tapestries, consider what has worked and what has not, and then a general conversation will be opened up. It is a chance to have some time out to think about tapestry weaving, to share ideas and learn from one another. There will be a theme each month, which will be led but which everyone can contribute to, so that participants can learn from each other's knowledge and experience. Following the free introductory session in January, each session will have a small fee to cover costs. Sessions will also be recorded and can be made available at the same cost for those unable to make the 'live' sessions. If you would be interested in joining in, please email annawtapestry@btinternet.com to be kept informed and find out more.

TexpoART – Dream: 5th International Triennial of Textile Arts: December 2020, Iași, Romania



Textile Art International Triennial Texpoart brings together in Iași works of artists from all continents. Under the auspices of the National University of Arts "George Enescu" Iași and in collaboration with the Romanian Artists Union, TexpoART is the largest event of its kind in the country. Artists were invited to express their own interpretation of the theme "Dream" in a contemporary formula



using any textile techniques and materials, traditional or unconventional. More details here <https://tinyurl.com/y50aa3em> where you can also find the Gallery of images from TexpoART exhibitions in previous years.

Morris Museum: Threads of Consciousness: The Tapestries of Jon Eric Riis. 20 November 2020 – 2 May 2021, Morristown, USA



Contemporary tapestry artist Jon Eric Riis is internationally acclaimed for his opulent work in woven silk and metallic thread, often embellished with pearls, gemstone beads, and crystals. The more 58 works which are on view include large-scale mythological tapestry panels, archetypal coat and robe forms that evoke ceremonial vestments, and experimental anatomical tapestry strips. More details here <https://tinyurl.com/y6dylte4>. For those unable to visit see more on his work below in Artist Profile.

Orkney Creative Hub: The Loom Room, Orkney, UK



The Loom Room offer weekly tapestry sessions, where you can weave anything from a wall-hanging to a mini rug. These sessions are great if you are just visiting, or if you want to come every week and work away at a project. Alternatively, you can join one of the weaving workshops to learn a particular technique and weave a set project. Their looms are also available to rent by the week. For more information please contact the Loom Room via email from their page here <https://tinyurl.com/y36hkmvl>.

Weavers Guild of Minnesota: Helena Hernmarck - Weaving the Archive: 12 January 2021, Virtual Presentation

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota is sponsoring Tapestry Tales, a two-part Zoom lecture series, as part of their fundraising efforts this winter. In January, 2021, Lecture #2 will celebrate the work of Helena Hernmarck, the Swedish artist and creator of monumental tapestries, now living in Connecticut. Mae Colburn, Hernmarck's assistant and archivist, will discuss Hernmarck's long career and her extensive archives, which are partially housed at the Elmer L. Andersen Library in Minneapolis. Find full details here <https://tinyurl.com/y2ckudxb> with a link to register for the talk. See more details about Helena and Mae here <https://tinyurl.com/yy4rmqfp>.

Albany Institute of History and Art: 2020 Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region. 19 September 2020 – 3 January 2021



2020 Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region highlights the work of the best visual artists in the region and is celebrating its 84th anniversary. General information and a list of contributing artists can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/y6p934mj>. Artists were invited to make short videos about their work and these are all available from a page here <https://www.albanyinstitute.org/artist-videos-2020-mhr.html> and of particular interest for tapestry weavers is the video by Susan Martin Maffei link here <https://tinyurl.com/yycxun2k> where she talks about her exhibit "American Hornet" from her Pandora's Box Series.

Handweavers Guild of America Inc.: Small Expressions. Until 18 December 2020, Lincoln, USA



Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. presents: Small Expressions, an annual juried exhibit to showcase contemporary small-scale works created using fibre techniques in a variety of media no larger than 15 inches. This travelling exhibition makes a stop at the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery until 18 December 2020 and is juried by contemporary tapestry artist Jon Eric Riis. For more information see here <https://tinyurl.com/y2l7ks73> where you can also watch a slide show of images of the entries and information about each of them.

Opportunities and scholarships

Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild - Stories from Nature: Call for Entries. Submission deadline 31 January 2021

Nature is, and always has been a source of inspiration for artists. Besides physical beauty, there are timely stories to be told through functional and artistic expression. This is a call for entries from international fibre artists with a number of prizes on offer. There will be an exhibition at Hudgens Center for Art and Learning from 1 May to 31 July 2021. Full details and requirements for entry can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/yy7elckd>.

Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild – Artist Residency Programme: Five-month seasonal residency 30 April – 29 September 2021. Submission deadline 31 December 2020, Woodstock, USA.

Since its founding in 1902, Byrdcliffe has welcomed artists to and live and work surrounded by 250 acres of the Catskill Mountains' serene natural beauty. Byrdcliffe seeks to pull together artists from varying perspectives, ages, and demographics, and engage with a broad range of artistic practices. Creatives and craftspeople in all media including weavers and artists in other disciplines are invited to apply. Emerging as well as established artists are invited to apply. Full details and submission requirements can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/y6h7w4f7>.

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Coffee Break: Vesterheim Museum Webinar: How Lila Nelson's Tapestries Embraced the World and Its Politics with Robbie LaFleur



Lila Nelson was the Textile Curator at Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum for decades and a premier expert on Norwegian textiles as well as a prolific tapestry weaver. Here is a very interesting webinar with Robbie LaFleur, to whom she was a mentor, about Lila Nelson's tapestries and the different themes she explored in her work. Link here <https://tinyurl.com/y2yh783z> for the Webinar which as well as showing many examples of Lila's tapestries also includes a comprehensive Q & A session which covers the variety of techniques that she used and particularly her use of traditional Norwegian techniques and materials. There is also a fascinating article by Robbie in the Norwegian Textile Letter here <https://tinyurl.com/yxab4o34> titled "Lila Nelson and her Tapestry Barter System" which explains how Lila would use her tapestries as barter for other goods and services.

Bonus Coffee Break: Starwatching: Thoma Ewen on Tapestry

This thoughtful video was recorded at Moon Rain Centre and presented at the International Contemporary Tapestry on-line symposium, Galway, Ireland. Thoma Ewen talks about the Navajo legend of Spider Woman and her gift of weaving to the first woman and the long history of tapestry weaving and how each weaver responds creatively to their own experience and life circumstances. She talks about her own creative

process and her most recently completed tapestry “Starwatching” currently being exhibited. She stresses the importance of children to the future of tapestry weaving and the necessity of including the creative arts in the school curriculum to ensure the development of the creative thinkers of the future. Watch the video here <https://tinyurl.com/y53p3qec>.

Artist Profile: Jon Eric Riis



Jon Eric Riis creates artworks populated by figurative motifs that challenge ideas of beauty and mythology. His tapestries, recognized for both their provocative content and the quality of execution, are found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and many other museums and galleries. As a contemporary artist Riis conceives the content, creates the design, and weaves the tapestry entirely himself often addressing provocative subjects through the medium of woven silk and metallic thread. His tapestries are frequently embellished with freshwater pearls, gemstone and gilt glass beads, and crystals. Link to the online gallery on his website here <https://tinyurl.com/y3aab7lq> where you can explore sixteen pages of multiple images of his stunning work. Link here <https://tinyurl.com/y6c5b4jv> for a review of his current exhibition at the Morris Museum (see above in Events for details of the exhibition).

Found on the Web

IK Foundation: Farmers' Textile Art – Local Traditions - Global Influences



This is a visually stunning exploration of Swedish double interlocked tapestry technique “rölakan” and its historic context which is beautifully illustrated. “Colourful cushions and bedcovers woven in the technique from southernmost Sweden is just one branch of the fascinating world of textile history – deeply intertwined with global influences over many centuries. The preserved woven fabrics not only demonstrate strictly textile traditions, like natural dyeing of yarn or weaving based on the choice of preferred designs and materials, but also a more interdisciplinary insight of practical aspects linked to production of art woven textiles and women’s work during the 18th and 19th centuries”. See the full article here <https://tinyurl.com/yy6yzzby>.

Hue and Value Choice in a Tapestry: Rebecca Mezoff



In this video Rebecca Mezoff is working through a tricky value/hue problem on a small-format tapestry. The video lets you hear what Rebecca is thinking as she makes various choices and why several of them were failures in her estimation. It also shows you how important trial and error are in making art. Watch the video here <https://tinyurl.com/yxtmux8v>.

Fate, Destiny and Self Determination: Weaving embedded with meaning



If you have not already done so (and even if you have) consider participating in this international tapestry initiative. Weavers and non-weavers from all over the world are invited to participate. To date 505 people from 42 countries have contributed a total of 840 shapes. It continues to grow by accepting shapes indefinitely. More arrive daily. You can read about it on Line DuFour’s website here <https://tinyurl.com/yd3mv352> and contact Line here <https://tinyurl.com/y66t8mhw> if you are interested in participating.

Tadek Beutlich: Original prints and textiles



For those who missed the selling exhibition of Tadek Beutlichs art at Ditchling a while back there is another chance to own one of his original prints or one of his textiles as a number of these are available through Emma Mason's online gallery here <https://tinyurl.com/y4vn15bp>.

The Art of Tapestry Weaving: New Book Launch by Rebecca Mezoff



A short video by Rebecca Mezoff to launch her new book "The Art of Tapestry Weaving" in which she briefly explains some of the topics covered more extensively in the book such as the types of loom suitable for tapestry weaving and the choices to be made. Watch the video here

<https://tinyurl.com/y545ztm5>. The book can be ordered in the UK from weaversbazaar via the new books section on the website <https://tinyurl.com/yytw8mgc> and has proved so popular that more stock is already on order.

A Day in the Weave of Margaret Jones

Continuing our new feature this month we are privileged to have an insight into the creative practice and weaving life of Margaret Jones. So here in her own words and images is "A Day in the Weave of Margaret Jones".

99% of my days start with a cup of tea brought to me in bed by my husband and today is no exception. He is a star and regrettably I have become rather lazy and struggle to get up without that first cup of tea placed into my slightly sleepy hands.

Once the tea is drunk I sit in bed, check emails and maybe have a look at Instagram. (I don't like social media much but it seems to be a requirement these days.) Then I write a list, it's genetic, my Mum was a great list maker.

I try to split my days into morning, afternoon and evening sessions. The afternoon is always weaving unless I am out. The mornings can be admin, gardening, housework (ugh) or more weaving if I am on a roll or close to a deadline. Evenings are sometimes sitting in front of the fire knitting, reading or drawing, sometimes there is more weaving or lately during Covid watching online concerts (whilst knitting or drawing). 2020 has been a year of wonderful tapestry books being published and they all need to be read. This daily split is not hard and fast but I always weave every day.

Today will start off with a bit of staring at the computer screen and we all know how that can eat up the hours.

Yesterday I recorded a short 5 minute podcast about me and my work, today I have to listen to it and will write a blog to include a link. My blog is sporadic and I am not sure anyone actually reads it. Link to the blog at <https://tinyurl.com/y6nb6rkr> and the Creative Coverage In Conversation podcast at <https://tinyurl.com/y46tbayr> "Didgeredoos and Weaving".

Today I also have to email the Oxmarket Gallery who will host Heallreaf Post in 2021, (there are contract problems to be sorted) and then send Lin at Weavers Bazaar the pdf's to go with the video of the pod course I have recently recorded. I also have to update the pdf of notes for the course so a busy computer morning.

Find out all about Heallreaf Post by linking to the website here <https://tinyurl.com/ybp8kpng> where you can find all the details about how to enter. The exhibition will take place in July 2021.

Finally I can get on with some weaving in the studio, the studio is a room at the back of the house, originally built for the washing copper and storing coal. It is small and I have too much yarn in there as well as the scaffold and various other frames. I have used and warped looms when I did a few months contract at West Dean in the Tapestry Studio but returned to the simplicity of the scaffold frame. That doesn't mean I might not progress to a high warp loom in the future if I come across the right one, winding large work down is so much easier on a loom but I find warping up easier on a frame.



A recently completed tapestry "The Way of all Flesh"



I am currently weaving a 3D piece, it has taken 5 or 6 years since weaving my first pod to find a way of using the technique positively. I am only about a third of the way through it and want to get it finished in the next 6 weeks, not because of a deadline but I want to see how well it works (if it works at all) and move onto the next thing although at the moment I am not sure if it will be more of the same or back to 2D work. This current piece will tell me if I can get the movement and agency I require into the large 3D figures and it would be good to explore this further.

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Once settled I can happily sit and weave for hours but I do try to get up and move regularly or else my shoulders complain. Most days I do about 15-20 minutes of Pilates just to keep my back and shoulders from giving out completely.



A recently completed large Diptych

Before I finish and close up the studio I put some yarn into soak as I have to do some dyeing tomorrow. My dyeing can be a bit intermittent at the best of times so I try to soak the yarn overnight with a bit of washing up liquid as wetting agent to make sure it is well and truly wet.





Textile Gallery

Please carry on sending us images of your work so that we can share them here with our readers.

Stop press:

Sample Cards

There is no change to the sample cards this month and the most up to date version issued in September 2020, is coded 0818

If you have any questions that you would like us to address in the newsletter these can be sent to info@weaversbazaar.com

Stay Safe and Happy Making!