

weaversbazaar news

Hello again and welcome to the 'just-about-still-June' newsletter. It has been a bit of a challenging month this month with holidays and sickness but we have just about made it.

Another helpful accessory – Thread Bobbins for Yarn Samples



For years we have been using Embroidery Thread Bobbins at weaversbazaar to hold samples of every batch of yarn we receive so we can compare quality and colour between batches. On the left is a photo from one of the 6 (and growing) volumes of colour sample files going back over the last 12 years. Each paper bobbin has one colour of yarn wound on to it, a tag is attached to hold all the information on the sample and it is stored in a plastic pocket. The file pages are coin-collectors file pages. I know lots of people have their own way of keeping yarn records but if you have been wondering how to do it and want to try this way the packs of

thread bobbins are now available on our website here. There are 50 cardboard bobbins in each pack



More Special Offer Tress Packs



We have more combinations of colours in our Tress Pack Special offers in Medium (9.5/2) and Fine (18/2) yarn weights. Tress packs contain a range of colours in cut hanks suitable for Tapestry Weaving and come with a 20% discount. See the current range here.

More Colours in the Medium Terracotta Collection

Terracotta 2 is now available in Medium weight yarn and so the Terracotta collection in Medium (9.5/2) has 6 colours in and can be found here with an 8% discount



weaversbazaar's website Poll: Have you tried the technique of whipping/wrapping in tapestry?



So the results of the May poll on the technique of whipping/wrapping are in. Responses were very spread out over the questions with more than half of the responses relating to the different ways in which we have used the technique, with a smaller but not insignificant response from

those who have tried the technique but don't use it often. More than 30% of people however had not previously heard of the technique or were aware of it had not yet tried it.

Have you tried the technique of whipping/wrapping in tapestry?

<i>Yes, to delineate part of a design</i>	<i>11.9%</i>
<i>Yes, to outline a feature</i>	<i>9.5%</i>
<i>Yes, to create a three-dimensional feature</i>	<i>16.7%</i>
<i>Yes, as a significant part of a tapestry</i>	<i>11.9%</i>
<i>I have tried the technique but don't often use it</i>	<i>16.7%</i>
<i>No, I know of the technique, but I have not yet tried it</i>	<i>14.3%</i>
<i>I had not heard of the technique before</i>	<i>19.0%</i>

Some examples of the technique have been added to the [weaversbazaar tapestry techniques Pinterest](#) page. If you haven't tried it do have a go the effects can be remarkable.

This month the topic for our poll follows on from the poll in April on framing focuses on how we hang our unframed tapestries. You will find the list of options for this month's poll on the home page as usual at <https://tinyurl.com/mbay9mk> where we have incorporated some specific questions.

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.

Q & A Corner

Don't forget that if any of you, our lovely readers, have any other questions that you would like to ask our newsletter subscribers this year then please let us know at info@weaversbazaar.com and we will continue to ask them here in **Q & A corner** as well as featuring your input to the questions posed.

Courses and Events

We are still seeing a mixed offer of virtual and physically courses and events. So we will continue to highlight and include both here. If you are planning on travelling to an event mentioned here it would be a very good idea to double check the details beforehand in case of any last-minute changes.

Atelier Weftfaced: Make your Mark Summer Tapestry Workshop 27 – 30 July 2022. Arundel, UK.



This summer workshop will take place at Arundel Museum in West Sussex. The tutor is Caron Penney and fellow tapestry weaver Katharine Swailes will also assist the classes. Classes will involve a slide show, live demonstrations, discussion and Q&A led by the tutor. You will be asked to respond to the title 'Make Your Mark' in one of two ways. Create your own image and cartoon for translating into tapestry weaving, or make your mark in tapestry weaving without a cartoon. This course is for students who have done the basics, to advanced weaving students. Find information about the course at <https://tinyurl.com/ycky2ak3> where there is a link to further information and booking.

weaversbazaar

Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW): Visits, Workshops and Events. Various dates in 2022 and Online. South Melbourne, Australia



ATW have advised that they are now open on Saturdays so visits at weekends are now possible to see the monumental "Parramatta" tapestry in progress which a team of 12 weavers are working on. Spanning two looms this exceptionally large tapestry designed by Chris Kenyon has been commissioned as one of many new public artworks destined for the entrances of the new Parramatta Square Building #6 in Parramatta, New South Wales. Find information about visiting ATW at <https://tinyurl.com/3jh27ate>. They also have a number of courses and events scheduled over the next few months (see below) as well as both an Introduction to Tapestry Weaving Course and an Advanced Tapestry Weaving Course that are available as online versions and you can find more information about these at <https://tinyurl.com/4v35bpxb>.

● **Open House Melbourne. 30 July 2022**

Visitors will have special access to the tapestry studio floor and can observe weavers working on large-scale contemporary handwoven tapestries. Galleries feature completed tapestries and contemporary textiles, and visitors can view the colour laboratory where the yarns are dyed for production. Visitors are welcome to drop in anytime between 10am and 5pm, or come at a specific time for one of the special events. Full information at <https://tinyurl.com/ye26acmy>.

● **Victoria Manganiello: Material Technology. 14 June – 26 August 2022**

2022 Artist in Residence Victoria Manganiello will present meticulous hand-woven textiles and kinetic sculptures created using modern technologies. These new works explore the intersections between materiality, technology, geography and storytelling. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/5xw84nzt>.

● **Victoria Manganiello: Sewing Circuits Workshop. 2 July 2022**

An introductory workshop to the use of electronic textiles which are fabrics that enable electronic components such as batteries, lights, sensors, and microcontrollers to be embedded in them. Participants will learn the basics of circuitry, working with soft conductive material and sewable lights and batteries. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/2wnt46pk>.

● **Experimental Tapestry Techniques: Ema Shin. 6 and 13 August 2022**

A two day class in experimental tapestry techniques where you can learn how to incorporate textures, tufts and 3D elements in your weaving. More information and booking at <https://tinyurl.com/3whpzbf3>. ATW also has the above course and others available

Petworth Summer Festival Festival: 13 - 30 July 2022. Petworth, UK.



General information about the Petworth Festival is available at <https://tinyurl.com/27s2czwc>.

Two festival events will be of particular interest to weavers. "Talking Tapestry in the 21st Century" on 14 July is a talk where Katharine Swales of Atelier Weftface will be in conversation with Zenzie Tinker. In what should prove to be a fascinating insight into the work of the tapestry artist, Katherine will set up on stage and demonstrate how she uses her loom together with the other 'props' she has developed to help her make her tapestries. Further information and booking at <https://tinyurl.com/yvzr2a47>. Katherine will also be showing a series of eight handwoven tapestries, "The Sun and The Moon and Verdure Garden" at Kevis House for the duration of the Petworth Festival. The

exhibition “The Internal Landscape” juxtaposes the tapestries with pictures by artist, Tuëma Pattie. Details for Kevis House Gallery can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mprrwctk>.

Dovecot: Raphael - Magister Raffaello Exhibition. 1 July – 24 September 2022. Edinburgh, Scotland.



Raphael (1483–1520) was a painter, draughtsman, and architect, whose designs for tapestry are considered some of the most important surviving masterworks of the Renaissance. During his brief career, spanning just two decades, Raphael shaped the course of European art, sealing his reputation as a Renaissance Master.. More information and booking at <https://tinyurl.com/5n6c3xya>. During the exhibition on the 5-6 September there will also be a “Raphael Inspired 2-Day Tapestry Weaving Experience Day”. More information and booking at <https://tinyurl.com/ky69sv3y>.

Dovecot: Alan Davie: Beginning of a Far-off World Exhibition. 24 June – 24 September 2022. Edinburgh, Scotland.



This exhibition celebrates the centenary of Scottish artist Alan Davie (1920-2014) who is one of the great Scottish artists of the 20th century. It features rarely seen works from each decade of his career, as well as a tapestry and a rug created in collaboration with Dovecot Studios. More information and booking at <https://tinyurl.com/59zucdpz>.

Pie Factory Margate: Hampshire Artists Co-Operative on Tour. 17 – 29 June 2022. Margate, UK.



Hampshire Artists’ Co-Operative formed in 2007 to bring together artists and craftspeople in Hampshire including textile artists. The group exhibits in venues across the region on a regular basis and are now venturing to Margate for their first full group exhibition outside of Hampshire. You can see more information at <https://tinyurl.com/yc4wetu3>.

Atelier Weftfaced: Troubleshooting Series Online Workshops. July and August 2022. Arundel, UK.

Atelier Weftfaced have just announced a new series of online Tapestry Troubleshooting Workshops for the summer. Each workshop will concentrate on one specific problem at a time. Once the topic of discussion has been introduced Caron will explain what the technical dilemma is and look at different ways of resolving the problem. Find out more and the different topics which will be addressed as well as booking information at <https://tinyurl.com/34pra796>.

Prince George Fibre Arts Guild: Sunday Seminars. Online 2022. Canada (Pacific Time)



Prince George Fibre Arts Guild Sunday Seminars on Zoom continue in 2022 with the next one in July. See the full details of the next few sessions, who will be speaking and when at <https://tinyurl.com/ywjp93jc> where you can also book. Note that only three seminars at a time are available for advance booking but the list and availability is regularly updated so worth

checking often to see who is presenting and when. Zoom sessions will take place on Canada and US Pacific Time.

Complex Weavers: Seminars 2022. 10 – 13 July. Knoxville, TN, USA.



Registration is now open for Complex Weavers Seminars 2022 and you can find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/26tcjdp3>. Seminar Leaders and topics have all been selected and all the details on the who, what, when and where can be found by clicking on the links on the page.

Opportunities and scholarships

American Tapestry Biennial 14: Celebrating Contemporary Tapestry. Call for Entries from 1 September 2022



Advance notice from the American Tapestry Alliance that ATA Biennial 14 will take place from May through to June of 2023 at the Appalachian Centre for Crafts. The exhibit will be juried by Rena Wood who serves as Assistant Professor of Fibre Arts at Tennessee Technological University's Appalachian Centre for Craft. Entries will be accepted through CaFe beginning 1 September – 30 November 2022. Work in small, medium, and large formats will be accepted. More details to follow.

Coffee Break: Rewoven: Innovative Fiber Art Exhibition.



Rewoven: Innovative Fiber Art Exhibition was a collaboration between the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan, Taiwanese American Arts Council, New York, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College and the QCC Art Gallery / CUNY. The exhibition showcased twenty-four artists whose extraordinary creativity and commitment to nature, environmental, and social issues was addressed in a convergence of painted, woven, netted, sewn, assembled and installed artworks. Watch the video of the exhibition at <https://tinyurl.com/48b988ji> and read about the individual artists and their work at <https://tinyurl.com/23txhc7e>.

And now for something completely different.....

Here is a short film from the BBC Ideas section titled “Do we think differently in different languages?” *{Editors Note: This is for me personally a fascinating topic, as I am bilingual, and from my own experience I have long held the conviction that this is the case.}* There are more than 7000 languages in the world and in this film various experts explore the topic and explain the Whorfian Hypothesis on how language affects our perception of the world, for example languages that assign gender to things affect the way those things are described and viewed. Of particular interest to those of us who work with colour is the section about how language affects our ability to discern colours accurately. Watch at <https://tinyurl.com/5d3y3tn2>.

Artist Profile: Amanda Gizzi



Our featured artist this month is Amanda Gizzi. Amanda graduated from Edinburgh College of Art and she has practised and exhibited at national and international levels, most recently with Artapestry 6 with her work regularly featuring in tapestry publications and reviews. She uses traditional tapestry techniques and typically vibrant colours to tell a story from glimpses of life. She has always been influenced by the visual world and is inspired by the interaction of people and place, of objects and environment. She is currently exhibiting at The Scottish Arts Club where she was invited back after her previous event there was so popular, find details and book at <https://tinyurl.com/tuffbcs3>. You can read about her and view more of her work on her website at <https://tinyurl.com/yck2kdht>.

Found on the Web

Rebecca Mezoff Blog: Summer of Tapestry: Let's Take a Good Wander



Rebecca's most recent blog article is about what she calls her version of a “tapestry diary”, where she regularly weaves small tapestries inspired by wherever she is at that moment. She first started doing this after arriving at the Petrified Forest National Park in early November of 2016 through a driving rainstorm to take up a residency just as the sun came out. She says that “the finished product isn't the point; it is the wandering. It is so important to step away from the lists and the screens

and the expectations and find joy in experiencing new things". Read the blog article at <https://tinyurl.com/yc25nnkj>.

The Guardian: 'Colour Is in My Blood!': The Vivid Life of Artist Sheila Hicks



An article from The Guardian about a meeting with Sheila Hicks in Paris just as she was about to open the exhibition of her work at the Hepworth Wakefield. She talks about her studies with Josef and Anni Albers and her early experiments with reconstructing ancient weaving techniques on a simple loom, which started her off on textiles. Now though she is all about colour and doing what she herself likes. Read the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/yhr9evmf> and find more information about the exhibition, which is on until 25 September 2022, and the artist, at <https://tinyurl.com/4v8fyhmf>.

Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW): Transforming Tapestry Annual Appeal



ATW are making their annual appeal for donations to help them make tapestry accessible to all and help enable their weavers and trainees to keep making inspired contemporary tapestries in creative partnerships with leading artists as well as support their exciting artist-in-residence programme. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2se9y6>.

The Smithsonian Magazine: Nine Artists on What It Means to Create



A very interesting article relating to the Smithsonian Craft Show which happened in April of this year. The article interviews nine artists about both their art and their craft and how both of those aspects relate to what they create as makers. Read the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9xurjp>.

Norwegian Textile Letter: To the Point, with Textiles

An article by Robbie LaFleur from the Norwegian Textile Letter about three contemporary Norwegians who have used every-day and traditional textiles to underscore important issues. Artworks in textile techniques can pack a political punch, partly because they work against expectations: a layer of surprise is added when the serious intent is revealed. Read the article at <https://tinyurl.com/tw4bt6uf>.

A Day in the Weave of Joanne Soroka

This month we are privileged to have an insight into the creative practice and weaving life of Joanne Soroka who is based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Many of you will be familiar with her excellent book on Tapestry Weaving. Here in her own words and images is an incredibly moving and at the same time very inspiring "A Day in the Weave of Joanne Soroka" which she has titled "Weaving Through Grief".

Weaving Through Grief – Joanne Soroka

My work has always focused on themes which have a strong meaning for me. Much of it has been devoted to the idea of journeys, especially those of my ancestors who were immigrants to Canada from diverse countries, and their lives and struggles. Later I broadened this out to discuss the plight of refugees. However in 2020, I suffered two major bereavements and felt compelled to address my feelings of grief in my art, especially since many others had also had similar experiences resulting from the pandemic. I have made two tapestries on the subject and am working on a third and possibly final one.



Within the space of five months, my mother and then my partner died. My mother was 99 and had lived a full life, but my partner died suddenly and unexpectedly. I made a Thai silk shroud with an embroidered heart and message for him.

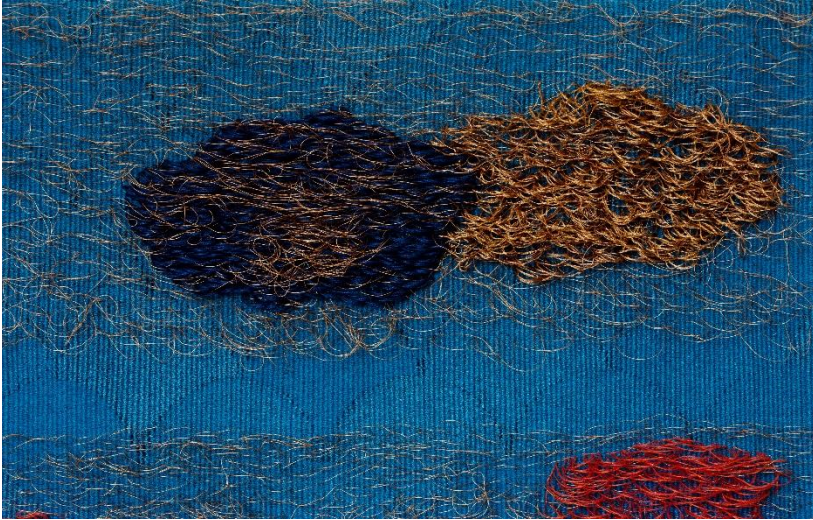
All My Love, embroidery on Thai silk

Still I Rise, 142 cm x 114.5 cm/ 56" x 45", 7 warps per inch, tapestry weaving with loops over the surface

I designed and started to make a tapestry which looked like clouds on a blue background. It didn't have a title or a theme, but as I wove it, I started to think of the Maya Angelou poem about resilience, perseverance and endurance, Still I Rise.

The first duty to oneself after loss is to carry on. I gradually came to the realisation that this tapestry did have a feeling of rising up and so echoed the theme of the poem.





Still I Rise - detail

Fractures of the Heart, 174 x 122 cm variable/68" x 48" variable, 7 warps per inch, tapestry weaving, tufting

The second tapestry in the series looks nothing like Still I Rise, but the design and weaving processes were similar. I designed instinctively and abstractly, making a large irregular shape which included texture and bold, angular sections. Again I gradually found out why I had chosen the shape and the types of sections - the shape was similar to that of an anatomical heart and there were two fractures in it. It inevitably became Fractures of the Heart.



The piece I am working on now came about in a different way. I have always loved the patterns on feathers and on birds in general. Over the decades I have done many drawings of them, but never found a way of translating them into tapestry. I recently read *Grief is the Thing With Feathers*, the memoir of Max Porter, whose wife died suddenly, leaving both him and his two young sons bereft. I started to look at the drawings again, and now it seemed possible to work with them. The resulting tapestry will be a cropped section of the breast and feathers of an imaginary bird, with each feather woven separately, before it is all sewn together. It will be called *The Thing With Feathers*, since the book title refers to an Emily Dickinson poem entitled, *Hope is the Thing With Feathers*. There is hope as well as grief.



The Thing With Feathers, drawings, finished tapestry to be 102 x 79 cm variable = 40" x 31" variable

It is hard to know whether creating tapestries on this theme has helped with the grieving process. I knew I had to keep working, and that in itself must have helped. I am also lucky to be surrounded in Edinburgh by a community of tapestry weavers who are also friends. Their support through this trying time (as well as my dog and the allotment), together with my compulsion to keep creating have combined in a determination to keep on keeping on.

Joanne Soroka has been a tapestry weaver for over fifty years. Her book, *Tapestry Weaving: Design and Technique*, is now in its sixth printing. Her website and blog can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9xp98f>.

{Editors Note: Thank you Joanne for so generously sharing this with us.}

Textile Gallery

Please do carry on sending images of your work to info@weaversbazaar.com so that we can continue to share them here during 2022 and please include some information about the piece such as materials and your inspiration, as well as something about you as the weaver/maker. Please also confirm that weaversbazaar has your permission to use the image in the Gallery.

This month we are bringing you news of an exciting project being undertaken by tapestry weaver Sibylle Braendli Blumenbach whose husband has recently signed a contract of several years duration to produce a German translation of Finnegans Wake by James Joyce. Sibylle is going to accompany the progress of the translation by weaving tapestries which will be inspired by her conversations with her husband around the translation and their discussions on any issues which arise. She anticipates weaving a new piece approximately every two months and along the way will be doing lots of experimenting with weft bundles and different sizes of tapestry.



Here to start with is an image of a sampler that Sibylle has made for the first tapestry which is inspired by the first word in the first line of Finnegans Wake:
"Riverrun, past Eve and Adam's from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs."

We can't wait to see more so are really looking forward to having regular bulletins from Sibylle during the project and sharing images of the pieces she will be producing here alongside her thoughts and notes. Thank you Sibylle for sharing the journey with us

Riverrun sampler - Woven at 8 epi, weaversbazaar heavy weft, 9s warp, size 17 cm by 15 cm

Stop press:

International Orders

Most of the orders we send out internationally are sent by couriers, all of who now require a phone number for the delivery address. So when placing your order if you can complete the option for phone number when paying, we can get your package off to you even faster. Otherwise we will email you to request the phone number before sending out the package, but sometimes our messages end up in spam bins and days of delay start to mount up so please send in advance if you can. Thank you.

Stay Safe and Happy Making!

