

All about Macramé

For August we thought we would ring the changes and dedicate this edition of the newsletter to a fibre art that was popular in the 1970's and 80's for making wall hangings and potholders but which has recently made a resurgence in fibre art. Some customers have also found that the weaversbazaar cotton and linen warps are ideally suited to macramé. So we have all been having a go. Dianne Miles, one of the weaversbazaar tutors, has extensive experience in Macramé and has designed a one day course to show how the techniques can be incorporated into Tapestry for stunning effect – more details below. So we would like to show you some of the best work going on and introduce you to some of the cross overs with other textile art.

History of Macramé



The earliest recorded macramé knots appear in decorative carvings of the Babylonians and Assyrians. Macramé was introduced to Europe via Spain during its conquest by the Moors and the word is believed to derive from a 13th century Arabic weavers term meaning fringe as the knots were used to turn excess yarn into decorative edges to finish hand woven fabrics.

Probably introduced to England by Queen Mary in the late 17th century it was also practiced by sailors who made decorative objects (such as hammocks, belts etc.) whilst at sea thereby disseminating it even further afield when they sold their work in port. It was also known as McNamara's Lace.

The Victorians loved macramé for "rich trimming" for clothing and household items

with a favourite book being "*Sylvia's Book of Macramé Lace*" which is still available today.

Macramé regained popularity in the 70's for all sorts of furnishing items and accessories including jewellery which incorporated beads and other natural elements such as shell, bone and semi-precious stones.

Cavandoli Macramé is an intricate type of knotting using the half hitch knot to create geometric patterns – also called Tapestry Knotting - this knot is one with which tapestry weavers are already familiar. If you would like to know more here are some links: a [Wikipedia](#) entry and a [YouTube tutorial for Cavandoli Macramé](#)



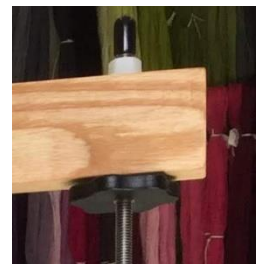
Detail of Cavandoli
Macramé from Wikipedia

Throughout this newsletter you will find links to items related to Macramé, including details (in the Courses section) of an innovative one-day course we are delivering in October 2019, combining tapestry weaving and macramé.

Weaversbazaar New Product: New Artisan Adjustable Tapestry Frame.






We are delighted to announce that Andrew Dickinson, maker of our exquisite Artisan and Collectors Bobbins, has now designed an artisan version of our unique Adjustable Tapestry Frame bringing the same knowledge of wood and skill at finish to this frame as he does to the bobbins. Complementing our Standard Tapestry Frame, this beautifully, hand crafted piece of equipment is now available through our website. Andrew has designed into it some new features. The upper and lower bars are made from an English hardwood (ash or chestnut) and oil finished. The side threaded studding is stainless steel. The adjustable tightening and loosening hand wheel is new (see right) and very easy to adjust and user friendly. A clearance is



machined on the bottom edge of the lower bar so that if you are clamping the frame to a worktop the warp is left clear in the process with no chance of any damage and the frame sits firmer on the worktop. You will find full details of this outstanding [new frame in our Online Store](#).

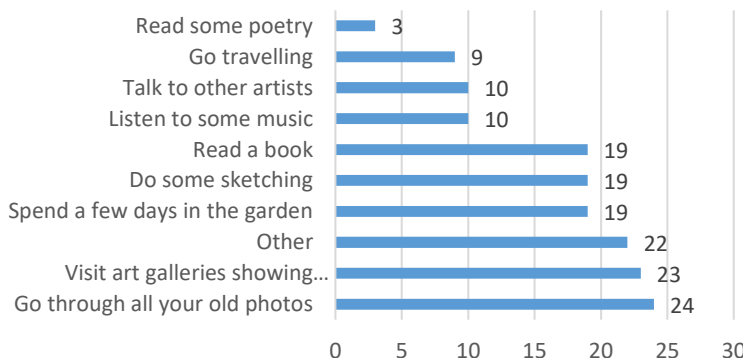
Weaversbazaar Yarn Update

Two more colours are now available in the Medium 1 (9.5/2) as well as Fine (18/2) yarn. These are Orange 9 and Terracotta 5. This also means that the six colour Orange Tonal Collection (30) is also available in both Fine 918/2) and Medium 1 (9.5/2). [Check them all out in the Yellow-Oranges Colour Group](#).

		
950163 Terracotta 5	950193 Orange 9	1074 Orange Collection (30)

weaversbazaar's Poll

How do you break a creative blockage?



Our recent poll explored how artists manage to shift creative blockages. As you can see from the summary on the left, looking through old photos or visiting art galleries were by far the most common approaches to this problem. It would have been great to have been able to capture all the 'other' ways in which the creative ideas get re-energised but reading, sketching or just taking time out in the garden all prove to be popular approaches. Our new poll explores –

you have guessed it – Macramé! You will [find it on our home page](#).

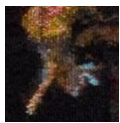
Congratulations

Heallreaf3 Selections

Heallreaf Congratulations to all those whose work has been selected for inclusion in the prestigious Heallreaf3 Exhibition, and who are shortlisted for the Heallreaf Prize. You can see the [full list of tapestry artists here](#) and [here you can see tantalising details](#) of many of the works which will be on display at the two Galleries that will host the exhibition.

Australian tapestry Workshop Announcements:

Kate Derum Small Tapestry Award winner 2019



Congratulations to Annika Ekdahl WINNER of the Kate Derum Award for Small Tapestries 2019. Ekdahl employs the interlocking weaving technique with consummate skill to create her beguiling tapestry 'Old Fringes'. 'Old Fringes' captivated the judges with its nuanced, ethereal and mysterious atmosphere inspired by the 16th–17th century symbolic painting genre 'vanitas'.

Irene Davies Emerging Artist Award winner 2019



Congratulations to Constanza Guerrero WINNER of the Irene Davies Emerging Artist Award for Small Tapestries 2019. In her tapestry 'Portrait of a Strange' Guerrero skilfully weaves interlocking flat shapes, fragments of a memory, to depict a transient observation. The everyday ambiguity of sharing space with strangers has been thoughtfully interpreted in this graphic composition and refined tapestry-weaving technique.

[Read more about each of these awards, as well as the highly commended entries, here.](#)

Opportunities

QEST Scholarship Trust open until 23rd August 2019.



The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust is open to applications from those on college courses, apprenticeships or on one-to-one training with masters. Full details of what is involved and how to apply [can be found here](#).

American Tapestry Alliance Biennial 13 Call for Entries. Deadline 15 October 2019.



Entry to ATB 13 is open to all artists who design and weave their own tapestries either individually or collaboratively (all assistants shall be named). The juror for this exhibit is Nick DeFord, Program Director at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. ATA is honoured to have him curate a vision of contemporary practices in tapestry today [Go here to call for entry details](#).

Coffee Break: Cavandoli Knotting



For this month's coffee break we would like to share this [short video by Marion Hunziker-Larsen](#), a jewellery artist who specialises in Cavandoli Knotting, which is where weaving and knotting meet. The intersection of these disciplines can be further seen in the work of artists like [Anne Jackson](#) and members of the [Macramé Collective](#). We hope you enjoy the piece from Marion.

Artist Profile: Windy Chien



This month we feature an extraordinary contemporary macramé, knot and sculptural artist Windy Chien from California. In 2016 she set herself the challenge of learning a new knot every day for a year after feeling constrained by the repetition of traditional macramé. From here her work has developed into very non-traditional macramé with use of contemporary materials, inventive use of the third dimension and a feel for beauty in simplicity. Her year of knots project can be seen on her [website](#) and on [Instagram](#). She is currently exhibiting at the Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, California until August 11th. Here is a [3 minute video of Windy](#) explaining her own journey and process much of which is applicable to artists of any medium

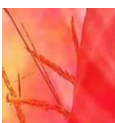
Events

Grennan Mill Craft School Kilkenny Arts Festival. 9 – 18 August 2019. Thomastown, Ireland



Grennan Mill Craft School has been associated with Kilkenny Arts Festival for over twenty years and this year is once again honoured to host another eclectic range of exhibitions in the converted grain lofts of the Mill. We warmly welcome in 2019, six individual exhibitions each of which shows an exciting new range of work by all artists, in a wide variety of media and disciplines - Painting, Drawing & Photography, Textiles, Tapestry & Collage, Basketmaking & Ceramics. [Full details here](#).

Fabulous Fungi Dyes. 26th August – 3rd September 2019. Lanark, Scotland, UK.



This Fungi Dye exhibition includes tapestries by Trisha Gow and Veronica Collins. Did you know that a small number of fungi species, if you can find the relevant species, when simmered in hot water can yield a liquid dye - a whole spectrum of dazzling colours is possible. In the UK we have been using these dyes since 1993 to dye yarn and fabrics. [Full details here](#).

Beyond the Edge: Small Tapestry International 6. 6 September – 12 October 2019. Rock Island, USA



Come and view ATA's international juried exhibition consisting of 43 tapestries that challenge the concept of the edge. This event was juried by Jane Kidd, who said "Many of the tapestry makers in this group have embraced risk-taking in their approach to composition and technique; they recognize the edge not as a boundary but as a place for exploration. For others in the exhibition the risk lies in the subject matter. The theme opens the door for provocative ideas that challenge the viewer to recognize and to participate in a conversation about issues and concerns that reflect our contemporary world." [To see the accepted artists, click here](#).

Heallreaf 3. 7-21 September 2019. Nottingham, UK.



The Heallreaf 3 Exhibition of international juried tapestry art starts in Nottingham before moving to a London gallery. The Heallreaf prize will again be awarded on the 6th September at the Private View in Nottingham also. The **Peoples Prize sponsored by weaversbazaar** will be announced on the 1st November. Come to the exhibition and vote for your favourite tapestry, see some close-up images of the lovely work. [For a preview click here](#).

Desert Designs. Until 8th October 2019. Marrakech, Morocco.



Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech is holding a temporary exhibition showcasing the incredible talent of Moroccan Berber weavers. It will feature thirty contemporary rugs, woven by women of the Aït Khebbach, a tribe from eastern Morocco. [Details here](#). However, if you are unable to get to Marrakech then [this short article will give you a flavour](#).

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The British Tapestry Group's Annual General Meeting. 30th November 2019. Edinburgh, Scotland



The British Tapestry Group will hold its Annual General Meeting on 30th November 2019 at the Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh. The Dovecot is an internationally renowned centre for contemporary art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry weaving studio in Edinburgh, Scotland. In addition to the AGM there will be an opportunity to visit an exhibition at the Dovecot, which will be centred around May Morris, daughter of William Morris (Arts & Crafts Movement) who continued with her father's legacy by creating 'art needlework'. If you are not already a member and are interested in joining, [full membership details are here](#).

Courses

weaversbazaar Workshops @ Blackbirds Studio. Various Dates. Forest Row, Sussex, UK

The range of workshops being offered by weaversbazaar is developing. Here are details of the next two events being run from our dedicated studio.

Tapestry Weaving Starter Workshops. 31st August 2019.



If you know of anyone who might be harbouring a secret desire to have a go at Tapestry Weaving please let them know about our one-day Tapestry Weaving Workshop for beginners. These classes will introduce the basic techniques of tapestry weaving compiled into a single sampler. Students will be working on a ready warped tapestry frame and will have access to the full range of weaversbazaar yarns to weave with. [Full details and online booking here](#).

Weaversbazaar Workshop Exploring Tapestry with Macramé. 26 October 2019.



Dianne Miles will be teaching this innovative workshop for those with some experience of tapestry weaving but who have little or no experience of macramé. During this 6-hr workshop, time will be taken to explore some simple ideas for incorporating macramé into designs for tapestry weaving. Students will be able to create their own version of Dianne's beautiful sampler (as seen to the left). Held in the weaversbazaar Blackbirds Studio weaversbazaar will provide

- A ready warped loom with frame holders
- A bobbin
- A selected range of weaversbazaar worsted wool and linen yarns for participants to choose their preferred colour combinations for the sampler.
- Backing felt in coordinating colours to take away to neatly finish the chosen final form for the sampler. [More details here](#)

The Bigger Picture. Studio Summer School. 10th – 13th September 2019. Edinburgh, Scotland. UK



This summer school, led by Fiona Hutchinson, is aimed at weavers who would like to scale up their weaving, from small frame loom to something larger. There will also be a look at the different ways you can work on a larger scale. From continuous warping a small frame loom to setting up a large scaffolding loom with warp and leashes. This workshop designed for students with some experience of weaving to advanced practitioners. There are limited places on this 4-day intensive course. Full details of workshops can be found on [Fiona's web site](#)

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Tree Weaving. 14th September 2019. Sussex Prairie Gardens, Sussex, UK. £55



Create your own unique textural mini-weaving, ready to hang on the wall. We will be working on small frames which are easy to warp up. Learn needle weaving, knotting, soumak technique and other textural effects. We will also look at a variety of ways to finish off your weaving. [Further information here](#) or from jackietapestry@gmail.com.

Australian Tapestry Workshop workshops. September – November 2019. Melbourne, Australia.



Join master weavers in the stimulating environment of the ATW for an intensive 2 days developing the basic skills required to produce simple tapestries on a small scale using the weft faced French Gobelin technique. Participants will learn how to warp a loom, weave simple shapes and lines and explore colour, pattern and texture. In these classes you will use our in-house dyed wool (range of 370 colours) and watch our weavers working on major commissions. There are three events scheduled. [Visit the ATW website for full details and booking.](#)

Learn to Weave with Cresside Collette. Thursday 12 & Friday 13 September 2019,

Learn to Weave with Joy Smith. Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 October 2019

Learn to Weave with Cresside Collette. Thursday 14 & Friday 15 November 2019

Mindful Weaving. 8th October 2019. Lingfield, Surrey, UK



In this workshop, Jenny Webb offers an introduction to both handweaving and mindfulness. Using a mixture of theory and practice, she will explore the ways in which weaving can be used to help introduce periods of peacefulness, awareness and creative expression into our lives. Participants will be able to share our experiences in a comfortable and accepting setting.

Everyone will go home with a small piece of tapestry weaving of their own. All equipment will be provided. If you are concerned that weaving could be challenging for you, please contact me to discuss the ways in which the workshop can be adapted to your needs. Jenny Webb is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist and has worked for 25 years in the NHS. She is also an amateur weaver and has experience of teaching weaving to adults, including those with disabilities. The workshop will be taught at Claridge House, Lingfield. For more information contact Jenny Webb, 01243 776364, visit [the Claridge House website](#) or call 01342 832 150

Circular Weaving and Macramé Jewellery Workshops. 13th October 2019. Eastbourne, East Sussex, UK.



Tapestry Weaver Jackie Bennett is teaching both a Circular Weaving Workshop (10am – 12pm) and a Macramé Jewellery Workshop (1pm to 3pm) at Eastbourne Enterprise Centre in October. [Further information and booking](#)



or info@themakery.me.uk.

Found on the Web

The ultimate 'How to' Macramé resource



If you have been moved to find out more about Macramé and even have a go, the ultimate free resource on the internet is the [YouTube channel for the Macramé School](#). Here you will find over 500 video tutorials on how to make anything from a wall-hanging and potholder to jewellery and decorations.

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Dana Barnes – Sculptural Fibre Art



Many artists have incorporated the knots of macramé into their creative practices but Dana Barnes has used them to explore form and volume using unspun natural fibres that are knotted, netted, felted, twisted and looped. "Recalling the front porch vistas of her childhood, Barnes' large scale pieces suggest thick crop fields, rolled bales of hay, grazed hills and meadows, Spanish moss and gnarled tree trunks." [Take a look on her website.](#)

Tex@ATA: 'Pat Williams has stories to tell'



The American Tapestry Alliance is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibition in its TEx@ATA online gallery, "Pat Williams has Stories to Tell" curated by Tommye McClure Scanlin. Tommye says: "Pat Williams has created landscapes of the mind that often hold heart-rending sentiments and promote questions as well. Some are recognizably human, while others are anthropomorphized shapes reminiscent of fantastical plant, insect, or animal creatures." [Visit it here.](#)

Weaving the rainbow



In [this blog post](#), Rebecca Mezoff takes our Silk Spectrum yarns and uses them to weave two small tapestries whilst watching the Women's Football World Cup. She combines the silks with our Black and White wool yarn and weaves on a small loom set up for four selvedge weaving (see Courses above). The [Silk Spectrum can be found here.](#)

Video diary of a tapestry Trip to France



Earlier this year Rebecca Mezoff made a trip to France visiting many renowned tapestry-orientated sites. These includes the Chateau D'Angers and the town of Aubusson. She made several videos which provide some fascinating insights. You can [see them all on her blog here.](#)

Textile Gallery. Tapestry and Macramé!



A woven and macramé bracelet by Dianne Miles using weaversbazaar dyed warp.



A woven wall hanging finished with macramé by Jackie Bennett



A woven and macramé coaster by Matty Smith



'Twist' by Lin Squires (right) and 'Lament' by Dianne Miles (left) – both from the British Tapestry Group Exhibition Riot - Brighton 2019. 'Lament' contains crystals held into the weave using macramé knots.



Stop press: Places still available on the 3D/Shaped Tapestry Masterclass



We still have places available on the 3D/Shaped tapestry weaving Masterclass led by US-based tapestry artist, Barbara Burns. [Full details can be found here.](#)

Happy making!