

Exciting Update on October Masterclass with Barbara Burns

The focus of this workshop has been widened to cover techniques for many more 3D shapes and to allow students to utilise their own designs to fit their own ongoing body of work or complete a design provided by Barbara. So do take a few minutes to read the revised description.



Barbara Burns is an internationally renowned weaver from the USA who is visiting the UK and the Republic of Ireland this Autumn to deliver a very special tapestry weaving class. The UK event is in **Angmering, Sussex from 11th – 13th October 2019**. Full details and booking [can be found here](#).

Barbara is especially well known for her woven burlesque images and portraiture and more recently for the development of 3-dimensional art tapestry garments (see Artist Profile below).



It is these specialist techniques for the design and creation of tapestry woven 3 dimensional shapes that will be the focus of these workshops. Creating shaped tapestry requires an understanding of how to structure spaces within a tapestry such that when the work is taken off the loom the warps can be pulled to eliminate negative spaces allowing the resulting fabric to take on a 3D shape.

The event will open with an evening presentation by Barbara of her experiences with designing and weaving shaped and three-dimensional tapestries. During the two teaching days Barbara will take students through the process of design for 3 dimensional pieces and teach the steps and techniques to create a shaped tapestry including pulled warp techniques. These techniques can be applied to wall art, garments or any 3D project to fit with the student's preferences. In the workshop students will have the choice of weaving a partial mini corset or weaving samples of different shapes to master the techniques, which can then be applied to future projects. Through the classwork and discussions students will learn how to successfully pull warps to shape weaving and will leave the masterclass with an understanding of the steps needed to develop and create a full size pulled warp project.



This Masterclass is also being offered through [Frances Crowe's Grange Studio](#) in **Roscommon, Ireland on 19 – 21 October 2019**. To get all the details contact Frances by phone on +353 90 66 29641 or by email to info@francescrowe.com.

What is a weaversbazaar Masterclass like?

David Stokes, who took part in our last Masterclass, with Joan Baxter, has written a short report on the experience – although the tutor and topic for each Masterclass varies, it does give a sense of what happens. After reading the report [take a look at our Facebook Album of samples woven by those taking part](#), including David's.

Working with Words, A weaversbazaar Masterclass led by Joan Baxter. 26-28 April 2019, Angmering, Sussex – By David Stokes



I was delighted to be able to participate in Joan Baxter's latest workshop weekend based in Jane Brunning's beautiful studio in Angmering, Sussex and promoted by Weavers bazaar.

Joan's written introduction to the course succinctly encapsulated the focus for our weekend.

“Over the past 10 years, the research reading that I always do when I'm starting a new phase of work, has moved from technical and factual material towards the work of poets and writers who share the same obsessions as I do. Also, I often find myself distilling my first nebulous thoughts on a subject into a few carefully chosen words, which eventually develop into a tapestry. Words are my first sketches, not visuals.”

Our group comprised tapestry weavers with varying levels of experience and Joan very quickly put us all at ease with her friendly, inclusive and differentiated style of teaching.

We were each asked to select and bring along a text that had personal resonance for us and to use as a source for tapestry design. Joan gave a fascinating presentation about her own work and the sources and inspiration underpinning them. We were given time to discuss our ideas with Joan and others within the group and this provided valuable alternative points of view to consider as we developed our practical work throughout the course. We were able to discuss with Joan technical issues that presented themselves during the course of the weekend and Joan's logical, structured and straight forward explanations were greatly appreciated.

The diversity of work that we were able to develop and share with each other throughout the three days together was fascinating, inspirational and a fitting testament to a thoroughly enjoyable weekend immersed in all things tapestry!

David Stokes

weaversbazaar's Poll



Our recent poll looked at the impact of weaving on well-being. There was an overwhelming response on the positive impact of weaving, especially on wellbeing (19.1%), mindfulness (18.3%), relaxation (14.9%) and coping with mental wellbeing (14.2%). However, 2% of responses indicated that weaving was either not particularly helpful to wellbeing or could make one's health worse. This might be in the context of poor seating or lighting leading to physical discomfort or sight impairment. Or perhaps it reflects the possibility of stress induced by having to reweave when you have got something wrong! Despite the very small potential for weaving to be detrimental to our health and wellbeing, it has long been our insight that the natural rhythm of weaving and the ways in which it facilitates creativity are supportive of personal well-being - so it is good that so many agree. Our new poll explores how you reconnect with your creativity if it becomes blocked. [Visit our new poll here](#)

Congratulations

2019 McClure-Scanlin Residency Award



Rebecca Mezoff has received a 2019 McClure-Scanlin Residency Award. This award is given for a two-week residency at the Lillian Smith Center, owned by Piedmont College in North East Georgia. Rebecca will be working during her residency on designs for a new body of work.

The Vision Weave project



Thoma and Gabby Ewen received a grant from Quebec's Ministere de la Culture this spring to direct The Vision Weave Project in Gatineau, Quebec schools. In one elementary school, 150 children collectively wove four tapestry banners that incorporate messages, hopes and visions for the future of our planet. The finished work now hangs as permanent art in the school. [Read more about this project here.](#)

Coffee Break: the 3D work of Fiona Hutchinson



Edinburgh-based tapestry artist, Fiona Hutchinson exhibited a series of 3D in 2014 which included several highly sculptural pieces created using pulled and manipulated warps. Fiona's inspiration was the sea and the creation of weaving to reflect water in all its undulating forms. [A video of the exhibition can be found here](#) and it is worth browsing through the [online gallery of her work](#) here where further examples of 3D tapestry art can be seen.

Artist Profile: Barbara Burns



We featured Barbara Burns back in 2017 but are revisiting her tapestry art as her portfolio has grown and we are excited that she will be leading our next masterclass, this October (see above). Barbara is especially well known for her burlesque images and portraiture but more recently she has been exploring 3-dimensional weaving using pulled warp techniques. She has a particular interest in applying shaped tapestry weaving to corsetry that also tells a story but she also uses similar techniques in the creation of sculpted tapestry as well. Barbara's recent awards include 'Revolution' which won the classical, traditional tapestry award in the 5th triennial of Tapestry Novi Sad, Serbia 2014, and her work 'Pas de Deux' which was awarded the Heallreaf 2 prize in 2017.

You can [browse through her tapestry art](#) on her website and see a collection of images of her 'Little Devil Corset' [in this Facebook post.](#) Her [artist page](#) on the American Tapestry Alliance (ATA) website shows the diversity of her work. She has also contributed an excellent blog to the ATA on [How to Manage Commissions.](#)

Events

Beyond the Edge: Small Tapestry International 6. Until 30 July 2019. Los Angeles, USA



Take the opportunity to view ATA's international juried exhibition consisting of 43 tapestries that challenge the concept of the edge, juried by Jane Kidd. This touring exhibition will close at its current location on 30th July 2019. It will re-open in Illinois, USA on 6th September 2019. Full details, including the list of participating artists, [are here.](#)

Material Meaning: A Living Legacy of Anni Albers. 13 July 2019 – 13 Sept 2019. Los Angeles, USA.



The Craft in America Center is presenting an exhibition that explores the ongoing influence of Anni Albers through the work of ten contemporary American artists and designers working with textiles. Each participating artist draws upon different aspects of Albers' artworks and designs.

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[Full details here](#). Note there are a number of special events surrounding this exhibition, the details of which are in the right-hand panel of the web page.

Julie Cope's Grand Tour: The Story of a Life by Grayson Perry. 25 July - 2 November 2019. Scotland, UK.



The Dovecot is presenting the work of the ever-popular artist, celebrated Turner Prize winner, and self-styled 'unapologetic fetishist', Grayson Perry. Julie Cope's Grand Tour in Edinburgh brings the complete set of tapestries designed by Grayson Perry for A House for Essex. The exhibition explores the creation of the house, designed by Perry with FAT Architecture for Living Architecture, as a secular chapel dedicated to Julie Cope, a fictional every-woman. [Full details here](#).

Tapestry Weaving @ The Vyne. July/August 2019. Hampshire, UK



The Vyne is a National Trust property in Hampshire which has a collection of 18th Century tapestries currently offsite for conservation. In their absence a number of contemporary tapestry weavers will be demonstrating weaving techniques and inviting visitors to have a go themselves. [Details here](#).

Weaving Beyond the Bauhaus. 3 Aug 2019 – 16 Feb 2020. Chicago, USA



Established in 1919, acclaimed German art school the Bauhaus was home to an innovative weaving workshop whose influence stretched across the Atlantic. Like the larger institution, the weaving workshop embraced the principal of equality among artists and the arts alike. Presented on the centenary of this foundational organization, "Weaving beyond the Bauhaus" traces the diffusion of Bauhaus artists, or Bauhäusler, such as Anni Albers and Marli Ehrman, and their reciprocal relationships with fellow artists and students across America. A Gallery talk will be held on 27 August 2019. [Full details of both can be found here](#).

WAR: Working Artists Roscommon. 9 August – 2 October 2019. Roscommon, Ireland.



Working Artists Roscommon are a long established collective of visual artists based in Roscommon. This exhibition will present new works ranging from installation, mixed media painting, to sculpture and performance by all 6 founding members; Frances Crowe (tapestry artist), Joseph Cuniffe, Honor Fitzgerald, Dympna Molloy, Noel Molloy and Anne Rigney. [More details](#).

Tapestry: The New Wave. 6 – 31 August 2019. Maine, USA.



Curators Priscilla May Alden and Barbara Burns have invited highly accomplished weavers to exhibit their contemporary tapestries. In addition to the exhibition, there will be Gallery Talks and tapestry weaving demonstrations by the artists. [More details here](#).

The Magic of Threads: Contemporary Canadian Tapestries. 25 August - 6 October 2019. Quebec, Canada.



This exhibition promises to take us into the world of contemporary tapestry through works designed and hand-woven by 11 Canadian artists. Line Dufour, Thoma Ewen, Murray Gibson, Peter Harris, Barbara Heller, Jane Kidd, Marcel Marois, Paulette Marie Sauvé, Suzanne Paquette, Ixchel Suarez and Linda Wallace are all masters in the art of high-slick tapestry, to which they have dedicated several decades of their lives. They are internationally recognized for their spirit of innovation, the quality of their creations and their commitment to promote this art form. [Full details here](#).

Perth Festival of Yarn. 7/8 September 2019. Perth, Scotland. UK.



Established in 2016, Perth Festival of Yarn is Scotland's contemporary yarn and fibre festival. Over the last 3 years they have welcomed the very best independent businesses from across the UK and EU to their Vendors' Gallery Marketplace which showcased 80 vendors in 2018. There're also

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thrilled to have welcomed festivalgoers, who have travelled from 19 different countries to celebrate with them in their marketplace, classes, lectures and social events. Read [full details of the 2019 event](#) here.

19th century designs for a mythical past. Three talks starting in September 2019. Essex, UK



As the production of textiles and clothing became increasingly mechanised in the 19th century, there were many who decried the headlong rush towards quantity and feared the loss of quality, whether in materials, production techniques or design. The solution was, they believed, to be found in the distant past, when medieval crafts were created as one whole, rather than by means of division of labour. This series celebrates the 19th century reformers who created patterns of lasting significance, and outlines the interconnected work of the Gothic Revivalists, William Morris and Arts & Crafts designers, firms and organisations. [Full details here](#).

Courses

weaversbazaar Tapestry Weaving Starter Workshops. 27 June 2019 & 31st August 2019. Forest Row, Sussex, UK.



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: <https://tinyurl.com/y5er5tpw>.

Two-day weaving workshop. 19-20 July 2019. Kent, UK.



Learn an ancient weaving technique favoured by Huguenot weavers with exhibiting artist Hannah Robson. Hannah will guide students through this two-day workshop to create a sample piece of weaving using the Lampas Method. The Lampas method is ideal for creating more complex figuring and pattern in cloth weaving. This workshop is suitable for those with some weaving experience wishing to extend their knowledge and skills. [Read more about it here](#).

Free From Cartoons: Tapestry Weaving Workshop. 24 - 27 July 2019. Arundel, Sussex, UK



During this workshop, from Caron Penney of Atelier Weftfaced, students can work in a number of ways; flat weave image-based tapestry, texture-based tapestry (including looping, half hitches, knotting etc) or calculated precision weaving. Creativity is at the heart of this workshop which is for all levels of ability. [Full details here](#) (scroll down)

The Visual Heartbeat: Creating Movement in Tapestry. 2 - 3 August 2019. New Mexico, USA.



Rhythm is not only integral to the world of music and dance, but also to effective tapestry design. Repetition of motifs in layers helps to create the sense of visual movement as well as three-dimensions. In this workshop Elizabeth Buckley, will explore different approaches to visual rhythm through the use of: repetition, progressions, gradations, and contrast in shape, line, value and colour. [Full details here](#).

Tapestry Weaving Workshops. Various dates during August - October 2019. Scotland, UK



Katie Russell will be leading a series of workshops on tapestry weaving all delivered at The Nail factory, in Dalbeattie, Dumfries and Galloway. Each workshop lasts for one day and the fee includes materials and a light lunch. [More information from The Nail Factory, where the workshops will take place](#).

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Weave and Stone with Louise Martin and Ros Bryant. 8-14 September 2019. Orkney. UK



This unique workshop is an exciting collaboration between a stone carver and a tapestry weaver. The workshop draws on both skills, exploring weave in stone and stone in weave. An initial three days will be spent in guided experimentation, responding in weave to stone qualities before choosing then to work further in either medium or to design and make work which combines both. [Full details here](#) (scroll down).

The Bigger Picture. 10-13 September 2019. Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.



This course, led by Fiona Hutchinson and delivered in her Edinburgh Studio, is aimed at weavers of an intermediate or advance capability who would like to scale up their weaving, from small frame loom to something larger. How do we decide what size to weave, and what do we need to consider when scaling up a design for tapestry? [Full details are here.](#)

The Versatility of Hachures. 26 – 29 September 2019. New Mexico, USA.



Application of the technique of hachures in contemporary tapestry can range from creating transparency or the feel of ripples on water to graduating colour blends or shaping and shading forms for a sense of volume and three-dimensions. In this workshop, led by Elizabeth Buckley, students will explore different types of hachures, their applications, and how to incorporate these in tapestry design, be it representational, abstract or somewhere in between. [Full details here](#) (scroll down).

Workshops with Kathe Todd-Hooker. Various dates. Albany, Oregon, USA.



Kathe Todd-Hooker has announced her workshop schedule for the next few months. All these events are based in her Between & Etc. Studio in Albany. Each workshop is a different topic so there are opportunities to study a specific technique or approach in some detail. [You can see the full details here.](#)

Found on the Web

Underpants, sweaters and penguins



The latest issue of the Norwegian textile Newsletter has articles about underpants, applying Norwegian weaving designs to knitted sweaters and making felt penguins – quite a mixed bag!! In addition it has an update on the ‘Inspired by the Baldishol Tapestry’ call we featured a few months ago. [You can read it on their website.](#)

These Artists Are Changing our Expectations of What Tapestry Can Be



“Along with cave paintings, threads were among the earliest transmitters of meaning,” Anni Albers wrote in her canonical 1965 tome *On Weaving*. Contemporary artists who have dared to take up the painstaking labour of weaving in the digital age similarly find themselves in dialogue with newly minted historical figures like Albers—who was instrumental in elevating the status of weaving as a fine art—as well as ancient traditions that span the globe. [This article explores that dialogue.](#)

Aziz and Cucher – Tapestries and New Works on Paper



For more than 25 years, the New York-based collaborative duo Anthony Aziz and Sammy Cucher have addressed current political dilemmas through large format digitally enhanced photographs and video installations. However, a visit to a Renaissance tapestry exhibition at the New York Met a few years ago inspired an exhibition last year of four monumental tapestries as well as a series of accompanying works on paper. Although now ended it is interesting to read these two reviews of the event: [an online article from Considering Art](#) and in a [recent blog post by tapestry artist Ellen Ramsey.](#)

At 84, Sheila Hicks Is Still Making Defiant, Honest Art



This interview with the textile artists, Sheila Hicks, was published in May 2019 to accompany a small retrospective exhibition being held in Miami. “Hicks’s practice isn’t just about creating objects and installations, but about living a life centred around making. She’s unyielding in her ethics—enduring art and meaningful experiences derive from a conscientious, curious, and ongoing engagement with the material world.” [Read the fully illustrated article here.](#)

Textile Gallery. Bumper Edition!

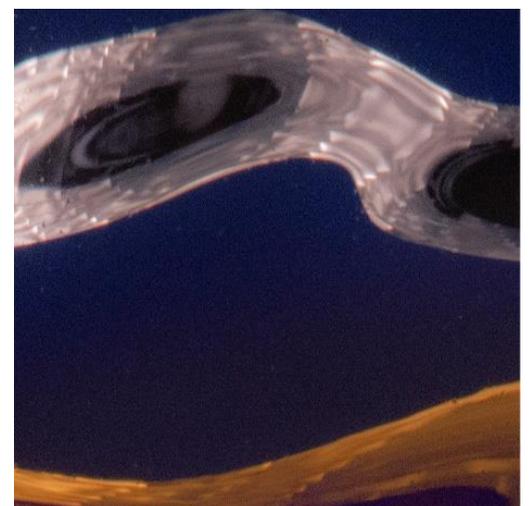
Rather than feature a Summer gallery this year we are delighted to feature several images we have received of recently completed tapestry art. If you have completed a piece of work then do let us have an image and some details so that we can share it more widely.

Water



Linda Bembridge has been discovering tapestry weaving. She sent us this image of her first sampler and wrote “I thought I would let you know how I got on with my first attempt. I spent a happy day in the garden yesterday under the umbrella having a go at a test square. I selected a small section [of the design, see right] and replicated that section in the Pixel programme so that I could see the different yarn combinations. I used an old picture frame which was small and worked on a 10cm square test piece. I had such a lovely day... I wasn’t able to use the bobbins, but I think that was purely because there wasn’t

actually any room – the warp was quite tight (too tight probably) and the frame itself was small so I did the tapestry using a tapestry needle. Lots of learnings too... I can see that small tapestries could be quite beautiful so big is not always the goal – this will definitely change how I think moving forward. I will still do some other test squares, but I may cut down the final tapestry, not finally decided yet. I have no idea how to take the tapestry off the frame and to tidy it up so that it looks finished, but I guess that’s the next bit of research that I need to do...”



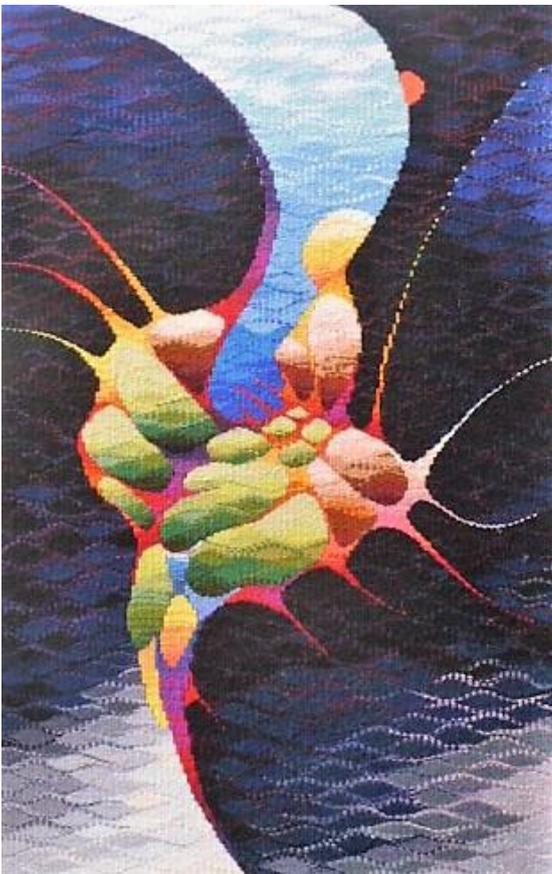
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Woven fabrics

Stephanie Pfister has completed the Handweavers Diploma 2017 - 2019, which is run by the [Handweavers Studio in London](#). She has been using our worsted wool for much of her work and sent us these photos (see over) of her final project. The weave structures she has been exploring included double cloth, deflected double cloth and single end distortion. It is fantastic to see our yarns woven into these fabulous fabrics and used to create such beautiful household objects. Thank you for sharing them with us, Stephanie.



Triumph of Light over Darkness.



Michael Crompton, whom we featured in our June 2018 Newsletter and who has authored articles for us on the process of tapestry design and on the use of colour in tapestry art, has sent us this image of a work he has recently completed.

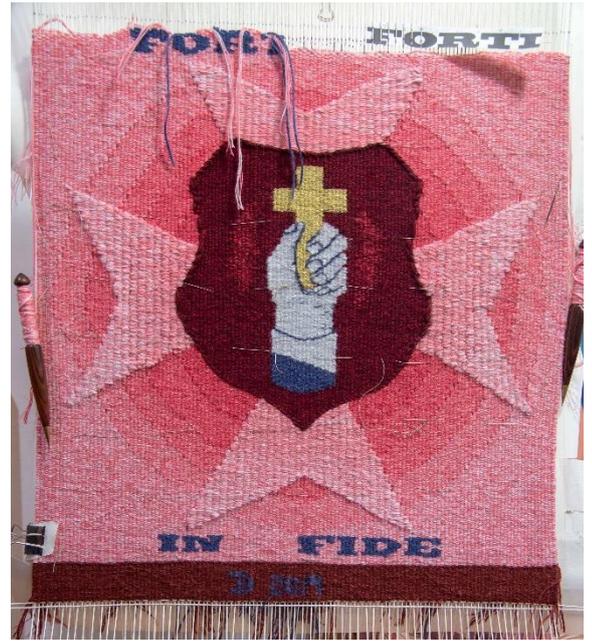
Entitled "Triumph of Light over Darkness", he writes 'The inspiration for this came from primary experiences, of travels and the subsequent following research. It is new departure for me with an emphasis on greater contrasts and exploring the horizons between dark and light, the known and the unknown'.

Michael has accompanied the image with an essay about light; how it is viewed and interpreted in different cultures and how he has responded to it through the design of this tapestry. You can [read the full article in our Library](#). [Visit Michael's website to see more of his work](#).

Almost completed commission

Jackie Bennet sent us this image of an almost completed commission she has been working on. She wrote “My commission was to weave a Coat of Arms for a family with Maltese heritage, hence the Maltese cross in the background. I wanted to get away from the traditional colours of a coat of arms so decided on the [Ruby collection](#) as the main palette. The motto translates as 'strength in faith'.” You can see more of Jackie’s work [on her website](#).

Photo credit Katie Van Dyke. 2019



Stop press 1: Silk to the USA



Some of you may have seen [this Facebook post by Rebecca Mezoff](#) in which she shares a fringless tapestry she has weaving using our Silk yarn. So we thought we would let our USA customers know that the full Silk Spectrum Pack (5g each of all 12 colours of silk), costs £46.32 including postage to the USA! [Check it out here](#).

Stop Press 2: ATA discount now available through the website checkout!



Finally, our lovely website engineers have helped us find a way to offer the 10% discount available to American Tapestry Alliance members through our website checkout system, rather than having to email us your orders for manual processing. This discount is available on all products not already discounted (except workshops and Masterclasses). It now works like this - when you have filled your cart enter the discount code (copied and pasted from the [ATA members page](#)), and the discount will be automatically applied to any products in your cart which qualify. We hope this makes your shopping easier.

Happy weaving!