

## Fall inspiration

It's finally looking like fall. Overcast. Sixty-degree weather. I like fall. Sweater weather, crackling leaves underfoot and changing colors above. Using the fireplace again. Fall seems like a new time for productivity and organization. A holdover from the days of new pencils, notebooks and textbooks.

So fall makes me want to organize my "studio." Go through scraps, fold all the fabric, separate the yarn into pretty baskets, finish the unfinished projects. But do you organize by color or size? If size what sizes? Do I have the perfect pretty baskets or boxes? Which unfinished project first?

Is the room organized properly? Where do I want the natural light to be? Are the tools in the best place for ease of use? Do I need more of something? Or maybe I really need LESS of something?

Some of you may be familiar with this "monkey brain" activity. It is not productive. It is, in fact, exhausting and I start to think what I really need is a nap (also unproductive)!

But frequently I find the real problem is just being in my own head too much and for too long.

Yesterday I spent time with four other women working on a quilt project (shhh, it was for a different guild) and found that just after two hours I felt soooo much better. This morning, I persuaded the cat, William Holden, to please get off the box covering the machine so I could do some sewing. I picked up the last thing I put down and went at it. And it was fun. It was restorative.

So, it's not the organized fabric, the pretty boxes, or the perfect whatever. It's the doing.

This is why I like Guilds and workshops. Other people. Other creative sorts. People who "get it." People and ideas who bring me out of myself and into a better place. Not just a more productive place, but my happy place. Sometimes I need reminding. Thank you.

– Nancy Nicholson, NSNG President,  
nancy@nicholson.net



The cutting table – provided by NSNG Service – allows several people to use it at once, making production a breeze. Thank you to Barbara Schneider for donating the HandiQuilter machine, shown in the corner. (photo by Valerie Kopenhagen)

## Sewing Space now open!

We've been waiting and working since the beginning of the year for everything to come together. That time has finally arrived! The Sewing Space in Deerfield is finally (mostly) finished and ready for business. We've had two different sessions in the room, one where we had all thirteen sewing machines working on a project for the American Sewing Guild!

All NSNG items are moved into the space, and are all set up and ready to go. Now that we have this permanent space in a public building, please consider stopping in on one of the days that service will be utilizing it and

helping us finish projects that benefit others in many ways. We have kits and fabric to make dog beds, cat kickers, port pillows for chemo patients, bibs for adult special needs, lap robes for the elderly, fidget mats for Alzheimers, baby quilts and just about any other project you can think of can be made

with the supplies that are here. Days for Girls also has some supplies here and we hope that will continue. NO need to bring a machine, thread, fabric – nothing.

The space is not open to the public, but you are invited to come on days it is in use, or schedule a time with me. We will also have an open house right after the October meeting. Come to the church and see this wonderful space. There are stairs in to the basement, but also a lift, if you need one.

– Valerie Kopenhagen, 224-522-3000, kopenhagen@comcast.net

**Sewing Space Open House**  
Tues, Oct 8: 12:30 - 3:00 pm  
Kingswood United Methodist  
Church in Deerfield  
600 Deerfield Rd  
(just east of Waukegan Rd)

**HYBRID MEETING: Tues, Oct 8 • 9:30 am (CT)**

In person at Gloria Dei (please park in back lot) – or join us on Zoom

• **Quilter Deborah Fell** – Thank You, Edward Hopper

**FREEBIE TABLE! SERVICE TABLE! SHOW & TELL!**

**MONDAY MEET-UPS: 9:30 am (CT)**

**Sept 23 • Oct 28 • Nov 25**

To receive a Zoom link from Susan Couch,  
email [meetups@nsng.org](mailto:meetups@nsng.org)

Visit our website for programs, workshops, membership and more • [www.NSNG.org](http://www.NSNG.org)



Where was the White Glove volunteer to assist this visitor? (photo by Valerie Koppenhaver)

## Schedule your volunteer time slot

We are less than a month away from the Fine Art of Fiber, running November 1 - 3 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Here's some last minute information and reminders for Guild members.

Acceptance letters are going out by email the first week of October. There will be a reminder as to your required volunteer service if you are accepted in the show. Volunteers can sign up now on SignUp Genius at the following link on the Fine Art of Fiber website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DA8A822A0FCC34-51148700-exhibit>

Except for Thursday set-up (which counts as 2 sessions), all volunteer periods are 2.5 hours. There is a brief description of the requirements for each job at the link. Please consider signing up for White Glove—we are always short of volunteers who walk around the

### NOTE THESE DATES:

- Boutique Vendor setup: **Wed, Oct 30**, 2:00 to 6:00 pm **only**.
- Exhibit dropoff: **Thurs, Oct 31**, 9:00 to 11:00 am.
- Exhibit pickup: **Sun, Nov 3**, 5:45 to 6:45 pm (Get a number from Sue Sweeney's team when you arrive.)

working the Fine Art of Fiber, and you will not be charged parking or entrance fees.

If your entries have been stored folded, please lay them out and check for creases now. We do not have the equipment or time at set-up to steam creases out, and creases really affect how the piece looks on the wall and how it photographs.

Looking forward to another amazing show! Please address any questions to me or other Guild FAOF committee members.

— Nona C. Flores, Fine Art of Fiber Chair, [ncflores52@gmail.com](mailto:ncflores52@gmail.com)

- Boutique: Ronna Leibach, [bows23@gmail.com](mailto:bows23@gmail.com)
- Exhibit: Nona C. Flores, [ncflores52@gmail.com](mailto:ncflores52@gmail.com)
- Fashion Show: Irene Llambo, [itlambo@msn.com](mailto:itlambo@msn.com)
- Education Table: Judith Schwab, [judithschwab3@gmail.com](mailto:judithschwab3@gmail.com)
- Silent Auction: Gretchen Alexander, [gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net), Chris Deering, [chris@toldme.com](mailto:chris@toldme.com)

## Education Table

Please sign up for the education/ demonstration tables at the Fine Art of Fiber. Show the world your favorite stitches or fiber project. I did it last year and had a great time and some very interesting conversations.

The 2.5 hour time slots count toward the volunteer requirement. This year we will have 2 tables so you will have a whole table in which to demonstrate your skills and tell people about NSNG. There are 3 slots daily: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm; 12:15 - 2:30 pm and 2:15 to 5:00 pm. If you have a day and time preference, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate you.

• Contact me now and tell me what you will be demonstrating.

— Judith Schwab, 847-975-4600, [judithschwab3@gmail.com](mailto:judithschwab3@gmail.com)



Barb Maneck and Lu Betcher knitting at the Education Table last year.

## Fashion Show

The Fashion Show needs models! If you would like to be a model on Friday, Nov 1, or know of someone available, please contact me.

— Irene Llambo, [itlambo@msn.com](mailto:itlambo@msn.com)

## Silent Auction

Donate new or like-new textile related items – things you have made, or other textile-related items. Bring your donations to the Oct Meeting. Each item should have a Silent Auction submission form attached. Please fill it in completely. Download the form here: <https://fineartoffiber.org> under Guild Member Forms.

## Service News and Notes

Please plan to attend our Open House at the Sewing Space after the October Meeting. Come and see this new place of opportunity for service sewing and community. The space is located in the Kingswood United Methodist Church, 600 Deerfield Rd, just east of Waukegan Rd (shown here).



- Do you have any extra **Holiday Fabric** you can share? NSNG Service Sewers make holiday pillow cases for the residents of the Evanston YWCA and Wings Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence. The pillow cases bring a bit of brightness to women and children at the holidays. Pillow case kits will be available at the November meeting for you to take home to make and return at the December meeting.

- The RefugeeOne Sewing Studio needs donations of apparel fabric by the yard, at least 44" x 36" – cotton is preferred but linen and polyester are also accepted. Thread, zippers, and trim are also needed. Bring your donations to our meeting. For more info, visit their website, <https://refugeeone.org/our-programs/>



- Please let us know of your volunteer service activities so we can celebrate your efforts.

*Thank you for the good you do in the world.*

– Gretchen Alexander and Chris Deering

**Days for Girls (DfG)** is an international project to provide washable, reusable menstrual supplies to under-served women and girls. Many thanks to everyone who returned completed items at the last meeting, and to those who took some more to sew. Please return completed items to the Service Table.

A special thanks goes to Kathleen Field who has just finished 120 liners, 533 shields and 150 bags - and taken more to do! And also to a group of ladies at The Mather in Evanston who do not belong to our Guild, but have sewn a huge box-full of liners.

– Sue Babbs, [suebabbs385@gmail.com](mailto:suebabbs385@gmail.com)

## Hyperbolic crochet with Judith Schwab

**In-Person MINI WORKSHOP: Tues, Oct 8, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the Northbrook Library.**

*Judith's workshop in May was so popular, that she will lead another one on Oct 8.*

- Hyperbolic crochet stitches create a kale-like structure. It's easy, great fun with no rules – just imagination. Beginning level uses any and all basic crochet stitches. Bring yarn that is easy to work with, preferably medium ply, and a corresponding crochet hook. Extras will be available if needed.
- \$10 fee, which will be donated to service.
- Contact Judith and Elizabeth to sign up for this workshop, [judithschwab3@gmail.com](mailto:judithschwab3@gmail.com), [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)



**Share your talents and skills!** If you are interested in teaching a mini workshop, please contact Elizabeth Guillette, [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)

## Complete our NSNG survey!

The North Suburban Needlearts Guild (NSNG) Board of Directors is reaching out to our wonderful members with a survey to gain insights and to better support your NSNG experience. Your responses are completely anonymous, but if you'd like to connect with a Board member for further discussion, you're welcome to share your name and contact information.

*We're excited to hear from you!*

- Click the link to the online survey (sent in the email with this newsletter) to complete your survey. Contact Susan Couch if you have questions, [meetups@nsng.org](mailto:meetups@nsng.org)

## Member Challenge

The Member Challenge theme for 2024 is "HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS." Use your favorite technique to create something around this theme.

All work submitted should be the submitter's original design (no kits, commercial charts, etc.) and should have been created within the past two years. Work that has been previously exhibited at Guild functions is discouraged. Entries must have a fiber element. Your project will be displayed at our December 3rd meeting and members in attendance will vote for their favorite entry.

You must be a member of NSNG to enter and vote.

Three winners will receive a certificate to be used in the next year's NSNG workshop of their choice: 1st place – \$100, 2nd place – \$75, 3rd place – \$50.

All Challenge entries must be at the meeting no later than 10:00 am to allow for setup and to be included in voting. Voting will open at 10:30 am and close at 11:30 am when all votes will be counted and Challenge winners determined.

Please let Lu Betcher know if you would like to enter the challenge. Include your name, the name and size of the entry, and how you would like it displayed (hung or placed on a table). Deadline for entering the Challenge is **Tues, Nov 26th.**

– Lu Betcher, Member Challenge Chair, [lubetcher@gmail.com](mailto:lubetcher@gmail.com)



## Fiber Art Divas Show and Sale in Naperville

The Fiber Art Divas present their annual Fiber Art Show and Sale – **now through Oct 12, 2024**. The members' original fiber art will be on display at the Naperville Fine Art Center & Gallery, 508 North Center St in Naperville. The show will also feature a guest trunk show by members of the Professional Art Quilt Alliance (PAQA).

- An Artist Reception will take place on **Sun, Sept 29 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm** at the Naperville Fine Art Center. All are welcome to meet the artists, view the exhibit and learn from demonstrations of fiber art techniques.
- The postcard above was designed by Joann Murdock using a cropped version of artwork by Susan Couch (see below).
- The gallery is open Tues - Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sat, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Visit [www.napervilleartleague.com](http://www.napervilleartleague.com) for more info.



### Rona Pietrzak

This is a baby quilt made for a new addition to the family. Both the mom and I love color and we hope little Chloe will as well. Each solid square was quilted in a different pattern. Couldn't have done it without the wonderful one-day Zoom Walking Foot quilting class conducted by Marge Webber!

Send your Show & Tell items to newsletter editor, Jan Harrington [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)



*A Place Where the Energy of the Sun Radiates*

### Susan Couch

This quilt was inspired by the theme of Abundance and a sunny spring day with my dog. It is a digital composite using my photos, AI generated images and other sources. It was printed onto treated cotton sateen, enhanced with Inktense pencils, machine quilted with cotton and polyester threads, couched with yarn and hand beaded with glass beads.

### Barbara Schneider in Harvard and Galena

*Art of the Land*, Fundraiser for The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

- Art inspired by the local landscape, music and more.

**Fri, Sept. 27, 6:30 - 10:00 pm &**

**Sat, Sept. 28, 6:30 - 10:00 pm**

The Starline Factory  
300 W. Front St. Harvard, IL  
<https://conservemc.org/event/art-of-the-land-5/>

*Still lifes in Indigo: Withered Leaves and Boro, var. 2*

- This exhibition, *Celebrating the Flora and Fauna of the Midwest*, runs **through Tues, Dec 31, 2024**. Burnt Sienna Gallery and Studios 9327 Powderhouse Hill Rd Galena, IL

[www.burntsiennagallery.com/](http://www.burntsiennagallery.com/)

### Evanston Made's 10th annual Artist Studio Tour

Julie Rivera and Maggie Weiss will be two of the artists opening their studios during Evanston Made's Artist Studio Tour. Visit them on **Sat, Oct 5, Noon to 5:00 pm**. The tour includes more than 30 artist studios located throughout Evanston. Some are also open on Sun, Oct 6. Maggie's studio is in the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, along with other artists on the tour.

- Free and open to the public. Learn more about the artists and download a map at the website: <https://evanstonmade.org/2024-open-studio-participants/>



Julie Rivera, 1618 Dempster St.



Maggie Weiss, 927 Noyes St., Studio #221

## Sept workshop with Marjolein Dallinga

Marjolein Dallinga has a unique way of working with felt and a unique way of teaching. She teaches with intelligence and verve. That energy guided us on our felting journey. We needed to trust the process, and accept not knowing what the end result would be. The most interesting thing I learned was how to use multiple pieces, resists and sewing to create one large piece. Here are some comments from class. – Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles

• Marjolein is a fantastic teacher and artist. She is laid back but at the same time encouraged us to work the hardest we could do. It was an intense class (as felting classes often are) but well worth the effort. I have learned techniques from this class which I intend to integrate into my felting work. I would eagerly take a class with her again if offered the opportunity.

– Linda Tomkow (left) with Marjolein



• I agree with Linda and I will add that as a result of this workshop, I developed confidence in myself to be able to take raw wool (roving or batts) and create many different hollow but fairly solid structures. I think the possible projects are almost endless.

– Helene Beckman

• Marjolein Dallinga provided clear and inspiring directions. Each student discovered something new, honed their felt-making skills, and together, we created unique and special felted sculptures. It was an incredible experience for everyone involved! – Jennifer Angelo

• “Marjolein is a wonderful and inspiring teacher. I would take another class with her in a heartbeat! The class was both laid back and intense. I learned loads in her class and I look forward to applying what I learned to a new project.” – Frances Krueger-Jackson

• Every day was a delight -- Marjolein inspired us, challenged us, guided us, and encouraged us to think differently about the artistic temperament, and to think differently about felt-making processes. Every one of us worked hard each day, but I know that I went home feeling energized and confident. What a wonderful teacher!

– Joann Murdock (right)

• “It’s a mystery” I’d tell people who asked what we were making over the course of 3 days. It was very freeing to concentrate on the process rather than the outcome – Marjolein deliberately travels without samples in order to encourage that. Nevertheless, the final pieces were a wonderful surprise in all cases. We’re already talking about a group project for FAOF 2025!

– Nona Flores

• What a fabulous experience! Marjolein is a gifted artist and teacher. And, such a lovely group of people in the class. I’m so grateful. I’m feeling like a real lucky duck! Thank you, ALL!

– Renae Rebechini



Front: Valerie Koppenhaver, Helene Beckman, Nona Flores, Irene Lambo. Back: Renae Rebechini, Joann Murdock, Linda Tomkow, Cynthia Boudreau, Frances Krueger-Jackson, Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles, Cindy Heineman and Jennifer Angelo.



• Marjolein has a wonderful and nurturing teaching style that empowers you to be confident in your own creative style. Here are some snippets I will use moving forward:

- Surrender, let go, and be in the flow
- I am creative and can rely on my intuition
- Experiment and have fun!

– Irene Lambo (left)

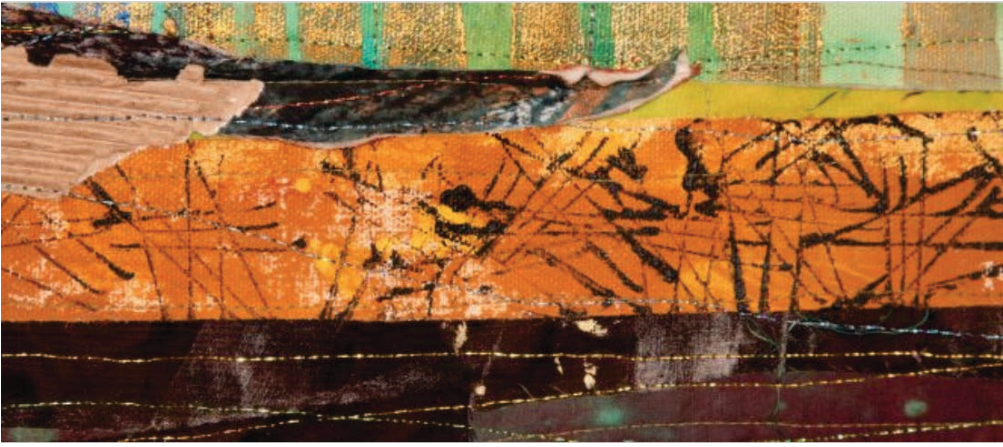
(Photos courtesy of Marjolein Dallinga)



### Artists mentioned by Marjolein in her lecture:

- Melanie Metz
- Joan Livingstone
- Joseph Beuys
- Anselm Kiefer
- Andy Goldsworthy
- Agostina Zwilling
- Anita Larkin
- Dagmar Binder
- Judith Pocs
- Claudy Jongstra
- Louise Bourgeois
- Kiki Smith
- Maurizio Galante
- Franck Sorbier

Her website: [bloomfelt.com](http://bloomfelt.com)



## Quilter Deborah Fell

Deborah Fell is a full-time studio artist committed to the quilt medium. Deborah's art focuses on abstract, organic shapes while using surface treatments such as dyeing, painting, photography, and reclaimed materials. She has been a professional educator for over 30 years. Deborah obtained a Master's degree from Northern Illinois University as well as graduate work at University of Illinois, University of New Hampshire, and a fellowship at Northwestern University

In 2012 Deborah started teaching art quilt related courses at the University of Illinois through OLLI program. She also taught in Tokyo in 2019 and Australia in 2023. Deborah's art quilt won the Quilts Japan Prize in Visions 2018. She is also honored to have won the Award of Excellence in Quilt National 2023.

• **Website:** <https://deborahfell.com/> (with links to social media)

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Why do we make art? Specifically, why do we make quilts? In describing my work to a group of young artists, while doing a residency at the Vermont Studio Center, I was asked why I make art quilts. I make art quilts because it is cheaper than the co-pay to the local psychiatric facility. Nobody got it. Creating art allows me to navigate between point A and point B. The world presents us with often impossible situations. Whether those situations are at the global level or at a deeply private level, art allows me to understand things for which there is no control. The combined use of cloth, thread, paper, paint, dye, and stitching sings beautiful music.

Art gives me hope and strength to believe in myself and keep going, even when it seems hopeless. Holding cloth and thread allows me to have control in my tiny corner of the world. Creating art is my strategy to get through those impossible times.



### HYBRID LECTURE –

**Tues, Oct 8: 9:30 am (CT):**

*Thank You, Edward Hopper*

Deborah Fell will trace her 30-year journey as an artist and educator.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEE: \$235

*Perfectly Imperfect Mark Making*

**Tues, Oct 8: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Wed, Oct 9: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Thurs, Oct 10: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

This retreat-like workshop focuses on slowing down and relishing in the process rather than product. Supplies needed are minimal and no machine is necessary. Learning to celebrate imperfection is a prevailing theme. Small compositions will be created with an emphasis on how to use the hand stitch as a major design mark making element. So, grab a bag of fabric scraps and your favorite hand sewing tools, and jump on board. This is not a technique workshop where you learn how to hand stitch. The focus is on using the stitch line as mark making on cloth and learning to color outside the lines. The stitch marks are the brush strokes that make the composition complete. Students will explore personal mark making preferences, with the power of parallel play in groups.

- No sewing machine
- Willingness to color outside the lines
- All levels; no experience necessary

### Choices for the final project include:

- Making a banner
- Create 9 small compositions that relate to each other
- Make a book
- Make a sculpture

**THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL. WAITING LIST AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)**



## Mixed Media Artist Millicent Kennedy

Millicent Kennedy’s (they/them) practice is interested in how we archive a physical world in flux. Utilizing print, natural dyed textiles and found objects, their work as a whole is interested in connecting two or more things that could seem separate or worn away from one another. Like dyeing and mending, the alchemy is in the labor and material itself, that lead to transformation. They received a Bachelor’s Degree from Northeastern Illinois University and MFA from Northern Illinois University where they were awarded the Helen Merritt Fellowship.

They’ve received solo exhibitions from Belong Gallery, SXU Art Gallery, Roman Susan and Parlour and Ramp, as well as site specific installations with Charles Allis Art Museum, Terrain Exhibitions Biennial, and Purple Window Gallery. They have received artist residencies with Roman Susan, Terrain Exhibitions, Awakenings, Lillstreet Art Center, and is currently in the Bridge Program at Hyde Park Art Center. They also serve as the Director at NEIU’s Fine Art Center Gallery and teach at Northern Illinois University. Their studio is based out of Chicago.

• **Website:** <https://www.millicentkennedy.com> (with links to social media)

### ARTIST’S STATEMENT

My practice is an exercise in and exploration of labor. Through small, repeated hand labors of printing, sewing, and box making, I embellish, reference and reimagine objects of mass production, labor history and pre-digital production methods. Discarded objects of the recent past, become the site for alchemy and archive through dyeing, mending and embroidery. The work is both death shroud and archived material, often housed in custom made boxes. These hand labors become the through line or connecting stitch that repurposes our world full of broken and neglected objects and ties them back to the human hand.



### HYBRID LECTURE –

**Tues, Nov 12: 9:30 am (CT):**

*To Stitch Is to Hold: Printed Images and Found Objects*

Through dye, print, found objects and slow stitch Millicent Kennedy’s art practice holds objects and the subject matter inspired by the built world. Ranging in scale and context, their work often responds to specific places, stories and histories. In this lecture they will reflect on inspiration, and research that has directed their investigation of materials and the handwork of natural dye, screenprint and hand stitching.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEE: \$245

*Printing and Painting Fabric with Indigo and Iron*

**Tues, Nov 12: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Wed, Nov 13: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Thurs, Nov 14: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

In this hands-on workshop, students will make and use an indigo vat, as well as clay resist that can be used to create images on cloth. Students will also be introduced to methods of using tannins and ferrous on cloth which will make clear dark marks. The resulting fabric samples can be sewn through easily as dye does not affect the porousness of the cloth.

**THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL. WAITING LIST AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)**



## Textile Artist Mirjam Gielen



Mirjam Gielen is a Dutch textile artist creating organic embroidery. She is inspired by nature, especially by its patterns, colours and textures. She lifts aspects of what she sees in nature to create a new, often imaginary image. Her preference for natural colours prompted her to start eco dyeing and eco printing. The depth and beauty of the colours these techniques give are the main reason but she also feels that if nature is her main source of inspiration, her practice should be respectful of that nature.

Mirjam has no formal education in (textile) arts but learned first from family members and later by taking classes from renowned textile artists.

She started her career as a textile artist while writing books for children and young adults. Making ‘wordless’ art with threads and fabrics turned out to be the ideal way to refresh her brain in between chapters and double her creativity. Over the years this practice grew into something more serious.

Her favorite techniques are embroidery and crochet, often applied intuitively. The stitch process is in many ways an organic process in the slow development of the stitches on the fabric and the way they adapt and respond to their environment (the fabric) and each other. She aims to have a sustainable practice and chooses to work with natural dyes, organic fabrics and threads, and/or reclaimed materials as much as possible.

Sharing her work, process, knowledge and experience with others, through social media and digital platforms, is what makes her happy.

• <https://www.etsy.com/shop/MirjamTextiles>; [instagram.com/mirjamtextiles/](https://www.instagram.com/mirjamtextiles/)



### VIRTUAL LECTURE – Tues, Jan 7: 9:30 am (CT):

#### *Organic Embroidery – Taking Your Cue from Nature*

The lecture will show an overview of Mirjam’s work and an insight into the characteristics of organic embroidery. She will talk about how natural patterns can be recreated in stitch and how the stitch process in turn mimics natural processes.

### VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: FEE: \$85

#### *The Versatility of the Blanket Stitch in Organic Embroidery*

**Tues, Jan 7: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CT)**

**Wed, Jan 8: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**

**Thurs, Jan 9: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**

In this workshop participants will explore the versatility of the blanket stitch. First by making a sample piece with several variations on the blanket stitch in a free style.-

This will help to experience the possibilities of this stitch and at the same time to feel at home with a free, organic style of stitching. Central in this sample will be the honeycomb stitch, a variation of the blanket stitch that is not very well known. It is ideal to replicate natural patterns.

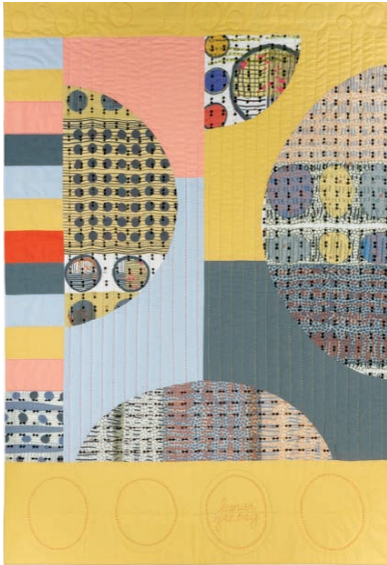
After sample making, the participants will create an individual piece of textile art, using one or more of the variations of the blanket stitch, combined with other stitches and appliqué. Participants can design their own piece, but there will also be several examples for inspiration. There will be both freedom and guidance fitting to the needs of the participants. Participants will mount the finished piece either in an embroidery hoop or around stretcher bars.

*My work expresses my connection to and fascination for nature. It creates new imagery that is not specific to a certain life form, but is about life in general, so about us all.*

– Mirjam Gielen

**THIS WORKSHOP IS FULL. WAITING LIST AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)**





## Quilter Patricia Belyea

At the age of 53, Patricia Belyea made her first quilt out of old clothes from Goodwill. Once started, Patricia worked on quilting projects during every waking hour when she wasn't at her day job. Five years after making her first quilt, she quit the corporate world to become a full-time quilter.

While raising a family, Patricia and her husband hosted eight homestay students from Japan. On one of her many trips to Japan to visit their "kids," Patricia discovered vintage yukata cottons. She started playing with these hand-dyed fabrics with graphic patterns and luscious colors. They were ideal for making gorgeous quilts. At first, Patricia bought a few bolts of yukata cotton for her own pleasure. But she didn't stop. Before long, she had the largest collection of yukata cotton outside of Japan. With more Japanese textiles than she could use in a lifetime, Patricia founded Okan Arts.

Today, Okan Arts is led by Patricia and her youngest daughter Victoria. They import textiles from Japan, host creative learning events, and lead quilting and textile tours to Japan.

With a life full of creativity and quilting, as well as a love of Japan, Patricia revels in sharing her stories and expertise with others.

• **Website:** <https://okanarts.com/>  
(with links to social media)

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The fabric made me do it! Once I got involved with the act of cutting apart fabric and sewing it back together, I was hooked. A bona fide treasure hunter, I discovered vintage Japanese yukata cotton on my travels. These luscious hand-dyed cottons, with lyrical patterns, were perfect for quilting. But I didn't want to cut the fabric up into small squares, rectangles, and triangles. Instead, I innovated two ways to add curves to my quilt compositions – Complex Curves and Inserted Curves.



**VIRTUAL LECTURE – Tues, Feb 4: 9:30 am (CT):**  
*The Unknowing of Creativity*

Patricia Belyea shares her creative approach to developing new ideas for original quilt designs. Leapfrogging from one compositional concept to the next, Patricia takes you on a journey of exploration with her newest series of quilts—*Big Grids with Inserted Curves*—made with vintage Japanese yukata cottons and other global fabrics.

**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: FEE: \$125**  
*Creativity & Complex Curves*

**Tues, Feb 4: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CT)**

**Wed, Feb 5: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**

**Thurs, Feb 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**

Being able to add complex curves to your quilt designs is like being given keys to the universe. It opens up so many possibilities for inspiring new directions in your quilts.

In this online workshop, Patricia teaches you how to add curved piecing to your quilt designs. You start by making one 18" complex curved block. You move to making three more blocks to complete a 36" square Quadrant Quilt.

To finish your quilt top, Patricia shows you a precise trimming technique. Then you add sashing for a final touch.

The workshop challenges you to think creatively as you learn new skills.

REGISTER FOR THIS **VIRTUAL** WORKSHOP ON OUR WEBSITE • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)



## Weaver Natalie Boyett

Natalie Boyett is a visual artist who works in two and three-dimensional media. She is the founder and head instructor of The Chicago Weaving School, where she teaches the art and craft of handweaving. The school is celebrating its 20 years of ongoing loom weaving classes and basketry workshops. With a Master of Fine Arts in Fiber from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as a friendly supporter of her local weaving guilds, Natalie enthusiastically embraces the full spectrum of weaving practices from “high art” to lovingly handmade dishtowels. Her goal is to make you self-sufficient, confident, and in *flow* with your creative practice.

• Website: <https://www.natalieboyett.com/>  
<https://chicagoweavingsschool.com/>

### HYBRID LECTURE – Tues, March 4: 9:30 am (CT):

#### *Tradition Inspires Exploration*

The forms, motifs, and techniques of traditional fiber crafts are taught and passed from generation to generation and become expressions of a culture. Fiber artists will often take these traditional forms as the starting point of an evolving exploration of individual expression. Natalie Boyett’s lecture will present an overview of fiber art of the past fifty years whose seeds begin with craft and tradition. Using individual artists as examples, Natalie will talk about their process of discovery and show the steps that led to their unique visions.



**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEE: \$250**  
*Ribbed Constructions: Classic and Wild*  
Tues, March 4: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Wed, March 5: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Thurs, March 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Participants will have time to weave two forms: a traditional egg basket, and a sculptural weaving, both using the classic ribbed construction. Starting with an introduction to ribbed constructions, very small versions of both traditional and non-traditional forms will be worked on. After working on ribbed constructions, participants will be able to choose to make the classic basket one day, and the sculptural basket the other, or they may choose to spend more time focused on one basket.

*I weave cloth that intersects the monotonous heartbeat of pattern with the skips and mutations of growth. Once off the loom, I want the cloth to do what cloth naturally does: wrinkle, gather, bunch, drape, soften, absorb, harden. It is stretched, folded, stitched and pleated. It hangs, it wraps, it puffs. It breathes--with no other agenda than to carry the energy of its formation.*  
— Natalie Boyett

REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP ON OUR WEBSITE (NOV 1) • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)

# Tapestry Weaver Nancy Crampton

Nancy Crampton has been teaching since 1983 and was head of the Fiber Department at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts for nine years. She teaches workshops at art centers, weaving conferences and guilds, including Convergence 2018 and 2024, and twice a year at John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina.

Her work focuses on rugs and tapestry, and is represented in public and private collections. She has participated in national wholesale and retail shows and is represented by several galleries. She is active in the Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo, Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, Michigan League of Handweavers, Signature Artists' Cooperative and the American Tapestry Alliance.



### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

For much of my work, the technique of tapestry has been my main interest, both as wall pieces and used as rugs. It is like magic to weave parallel rows of yarn and make the viewer see curves and shapes.

The idea for a piece can come from a combination of colored yarns, words from a phrase or poem or from the requirements of a commissioned piece. I enjoy the challenges involved

in weaving a piece for a particular location. I love the way colors interact with each other. It is fun to find yarns that complement the colors I have in my mind.

I collect yarns in colors I find exciting, colors that often have no proper name. Yarns are not like paint - you can't mix them together to get a new color. You must either buy them, dye them yourself or place them next to each other so they interact.

• Website: <https://www.nancycramptondesigns.com/>

### HYBRID LECTURE – Tues, April 1: 9:30 am (CT):

#### *Hard and Soft, Fifty Years of Tapestry Weaving*

From the beginning of my weaving journey, tapestry has been my love. I would enjoy sharing a selection of my work with you. My work has varied from flat pieces hung on the wall to covering a footstool, woven purses influenced by Georgia O'Keefe and constructed designs.

In the past few years, I have added polychrome enameled copper pieces to my designs and have collaborated with my husband to use his hand-forged iron to hang the weavings.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEE: \$170

#### *Beginning and Continuing Tapestry Weaving*

Tues, April 1: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wed, April 2: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Thurs, April 3: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

In this workshop, students will learn the basic tapestry joins and techniques of shading using different colors of weft threads.

You will use copper-pipe frame looms supplied by the teacher, or the students' own adjustable-tension frame loom (such as Mirrix) to weave a sampler. Several warping styles will be demonstrated and used.

Discussions will include designing, color choices, and various ways of making a cartoon (or plan for the tapestry) and how to transfer the design to the warp threads. Finishing techniques,



lining the weaving, and mounting it will be demonstrated.

There will be opportunities to use watercolors and colored pencils to help with designing.

• No prior weaving experience is necessary. Fee includes warp and weft yarn for sampler, use of the pipe loom, and handouts.

REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP ON OUR WEBSITE (NOV 1) • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)



## Artist Colette Wright Adams

Colette Wright Adams received a BFA in visual art from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, then moved to Chicago where she completed a MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in painting. She has worked professionally for 40 years in Chicago primarily as a painter and drawer. Colette has an active practice as a curator and is the founder and former director of the Uptown Arts Center. She has also created a number of art & community projects.



### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My artistic journey is deeply rooted in exploring the relationship between humans, the natural world and the profound connection between them.

"We are immersed in a field of undifferentiated matter from which our senses gather bits of information..." serves as a philosophical foundation for me as an observational artist. Focusing on trees and botanicals, my perception of the world is a selective process, where I filter and interpret the sensory information around me. Often, I unearth patterns in nature. Some are obvious and others are hidden. A regular part of my art practice is meditation and meditative walking.

### HYBRID LECTURE – Tues, May 6: 9:30 am (CT):

#### *The Observational Artist: Approach, Practice and Tools*

From Representational to Abstract painting, artists have interpreted what they see, feel and experience in the world around them and within themselves.

Someone once asked Colette Wright Adams, "What inspires you as an artist?" She looked out at the clouds that were forming that day and said, "The sky..." and then added, "and everything between it and me." It was then Colette realized she would call herself an observational artist.

In this lecture, Colette will discuss her journey as an observational artist. She will share how she uses meditation and mindfulness in her art practice and how focusing on being present and aware in the moment has heightened her observational skills.



### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEE: \$155

#### *Meditation & Drawing:*

#### *Looking, to Seeing, to Creating*

**Tues, May 6: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Wed, May 7: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Thurs, May 8: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

A series of workshops will use meditation, visioning, drawing, collage, and watercolor. Based in part on observation and part on intuition, our activities will stimulate and cultivate our innate sense of creativity. Although you may work in another medium, these workshops can help you release images, approaches and ideas that are unique to you.

- **Approaching Drawing:** A group meditation featuring exercises with a variety of mark-making tools and materials.
- **Visioning and Intuitive Collage:** A long visioning meditation with music and story.
- **Approaching Drawing 2:** An engaging process incorporating meditation, hand-relaxing techniques and traditional observational skills. Black

and white drawing from life and from photos emphasizing composition, using pencil, charcoal, marker, and ink.

- **Transcending Still Life with Watercolor:** We will abstract a set-up still life by choosing geometric forms: circle, square, triangle, etc, to represent the objects and paint with a limited palette of yellow, red and blue watercolor.

- **Folded Book:** Participants will create small, folded books using imagery based on the art created during our time together in Intuitive Collage and Approaching Drawing.

REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP ON OUR WEBSITE (NOV 1) • [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)

## NOTE:

The email addresses in this newsletter are for your personal use only so members can contact each other.

## A DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

with names and contact info for all members will be sent out in October. Please contact our Membership Chair, Susan Sances, to update your photo or other information.

President  
1st Vice-President  
2nd Vice-President  
2nd Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership  
Workshop Registrar  
Hospitality  
Special Events  
Technology Specialist  
Mini-Workshop Chair  
Publicity Chair  
Member Challenge  
Service Chair  
Webmaster  
Newsletter Editor  
Fine Art of Fiber Chair  
FAOF Committee  
Past President

Nancy Nicholson  
Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles  
Penny Burns  
Sylvia Dresser  
Barb Zerna  
Cindy Oppenheimer  
Susan Sances  
Janet Tuzzolino  
Rona Pietrzak  
Barb Maneck  
Susan Couch  
Elizabeth Guillette  
Frances Krueger-Jackson  
Lu Betcher  
Gretchen Alexander  
Valerie Koppenhaver  
Jan Harrington  
Nona Flores  
Valerie Koppenhaver  
Ronna Leibach  
Frances Krueger-Jackson  
Jan Harrington

nancy@nicholson.net (847) 533-4818  
creynolds.fefles.artist@gmail.com  
pburns@jbosh.com  
sylviadresser@gmail.com  
barbszerna@gmail.com  
cb\_bus@comcast.net  
membership@nsng.org  
registration@nsng.org  
hospitality@nsng.org  
happydragn@yahoo.com  
meetups @nsng.org  
ekguillette@gmail.com  
publicity@nsng.org  
lubetcher@gmail.com  
gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net  
webmaster@nsng.org  
janqharrington@gmail.com  
ncflores52@gmail.com  
webmaster@nsng.org  
bows23@gmail.com  
publicity@nsng.org  
janqharrington@gmail.com

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The purpose of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is to foster the art of needlework and to encourage a high standard of design, innovation, and technique in various forms of fiber arts. New ideas and techniques are developed through lectures, workshops and other group gatherings. Members are encouraged to show their own talents at meetings.

• **MEMBERSHIP:** Annual membership dues are \$52. Our membership year starts on Aug 1 and ends the following July 31. **If you have a change of address, phone or email address,** contact Membership Chair: **Susan Sances**, membership@nsng.org

• **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** A digital directory will be sent to all members in October. It includes names and contact info for members, calendars, by-laws and other information about NSNG. Updates will be made as needed. **It is for your personal use only!**

• **MINI WORKSHOPS** are taught by NSNG members. If you are interested in teaching a class, contact Mini-Workshop Chair: **Elizabeth Guillette**, ekguillette@gmail.com

• **IN-PERSON EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS** are held at **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** (1133 Pflugston Rd, Northbrook) unless otherwise noted. **Please park in the back lot** – on the east side of the church – and enter at that door.

• **GUESTS ARE WELCOME:** Guests and friends are free the first time they attend, after which they must join the Guild to continue attending.

• **FREEBIE TABLE:** Members may bring in fiber-related items they no longer need. **PLEASE take home any unclaimed items!**



## Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

The newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is published monthly (except for the summer). A digital copy is sent out via email a few days before each meeting. It's also available on our website.

**Our Nov issue will be sent out in late Oct (Submission deadline: Oct 15)**

Please contact Newsletter Editor **Jan Harrington** with Show & Tell, announcements or corrections: [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE: [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org)**

Post your projects on INSTAGRAM!  
**@needleartschicago**  
**#northsuburbanneedleartsguild**

Share your work and stories of interest on our FACEBOOK page:  
**North Suburban NeedleArts Guild**