

## Stop the shoulds!

It's late December and we are leaving the time of holiday preparations and overindulgence into the time of "Shoulds." I should exercise more, lose 10 pounds, eat healthy (could those be combined do you think?). I should read the classics (stop working my way thru the mystery section of the library). Watch PBS NewsHour instead of escaping with a rerun of The Closer (but really, it's Kyra Sedgwick! And the news is depressing). Clean out the years of accumulated stuff that I haven't used since 1995 (but I MIGHT!?). And the BIG ONE – finish all the unfinished projects from workshops.

*But come on!* In January and February there will be new Zoom workshops. I'll miss seeing everyone in-person, but I also really like being home with good coffee and just logging into days of creativity. Then the Guild has spring meetings and workshops, two amazing summer workshops in June and soon a whole new line up of speakers and workshops for 2025/26!

Now, "The Shoulds" are trying to remind me that I have shelves of unfinished projects from past workshops. This year I would like to **Stop The Shoulds**. This year I am going to vow (pledge? promise? hope?) to either finish these or just STOP. Stop feeling bad, guilty, lazy about all that doesn't get done. *Be OK with what DOES get done; let go and go forward.*

Sometimes new techniques from workshops don't "stick," but they influence something else. Sometimes a workshop project sits and sits and then becomes something else entirely! Sometimes it's just fun to be absorbed in creative play or be inspired by those around you. Of course, all of this means letting go of the "shoulds".

I invite you to give up your old "shoulds" this new year (there will always be more). Have a blessed, healthy and creative New Year.

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



Judith Schwab received the most votes at our Dec 3 potluck and was awarded the blue ribbon for 'Home Is Where the Yarn Is.' Third place went to Sue Daurio for her art quilt, 'At Home on the Prairie.' (Photos by Susan Couch)



Cass Hale's tribute to refugees, entitled '117.3 Million,' took second place.



## A heartfelt Member Challenge

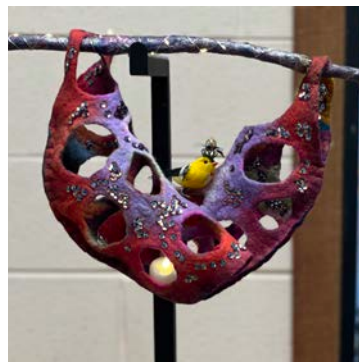
Our entrants clearly had their creative juices flowing when turning out their unique spin on this year's Member Challenge theme "Home Is Where the Heart Is." Voting member feedback "Can I vote for more than one??" attests to the exceptional quality of work by all those who entered.

I think Nona Flores said it best; "This year's entrants really illustrated the breadth of fiber art skills in the Guild. I am honored to be in this company." My sentiments exactly.

Many thanks to all who participated: Barbara Eich, Anne Goldberg, Judith Schwab, Elizabeth Guillette, Nona Flores, Kim Berry Rogers, Marla Florio, Cass Hale, Barb Maneck, Valerie Rodelli, Sue Daurio, Karen Jones and Tracy Lampkins.

– Lu Betcher, Member Challenge Chair

• SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE PHOTOS.



'She's Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage' by Nona Flores

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS:** Zoom link will be sent beforehand.

**Tues, Jan 7 • 9:30 am (CT)**

Textile Artist Mirjam Gielen

**Tues, Feb 4 • 9:30 am (CT)**

Quilter Patricia Belyea

**MINI WORKSHOP: Jan 6 • Details on page 3.**

**MONDAY MEET-UP: Jan 27 • 9:30 am (CT)**

Email Susan Couch for a Zoom link, [meetups@nsng.org](mailto:meetups@nsng.org)

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



Barb Maneck with 'Home of the Heart Fairy'



Tracy Lampkins with 'My Peaceful & Excited Heart'



Valerie Rodelli with 'Home is Everywhere'



Marla Florio with 'Love's Just Around the Corner'

## Full display of our talents at December meeting



'My Home is Earth and Water' by Kim Berry Rogers

More than 70 members of NSNG enjoyed socializing and great food at our Dec gathering. Thank you to Special Events Chair, Barb Maneck, for overseeing the potluck and to Lu Betcher for organizing the successful Member Challenge. (See page 1 for the 3 winners.)



'Solitude in a Cityscape Dwelling' by Karen Jones



'My Home Sends Out Hearts' jewelry by Elizabeth Guillette



President Nancy Nicholson and Lu Betcher announcing the winners. (Photos above and below by Debbie De Palma)



'Creative Assistance' by Barbie Eich



'Anywhere I Hang My Hat is Home' by Anne Goldberg



Join us for our Summer Potluck on Tues, July 15.

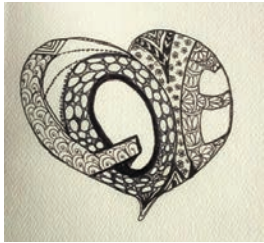
Challenge photos by Susan Couch

## Zen Doodle Drawing with Sandy Frydman

MINI WORKSHOP ON ZOOM ONLY:

Mon, January 6, 2025, 9:30- 11:30 am (CT)

Relaxing drawing class for all levels, no experience necessary. We will learn basic doodle tangles together and then combine those for a finished tangle design. Experienced doodlers can refine and renew their skills. The practice doodles will be part of your reference library.



You will receive practice sheets and some of my original designs to work on during the class or you may create your own designs. Frameable art, cards, bookmarks, stitching and fabric designs are a few ways to use your tangles.



Original designs by Sandy Frydman



**Supplies:** Use any supplies that you have available, but I will recommend others if you wish to use them. We will work in black and white during the class. You may choose to add color on your own. Watercolor paints, brush markers, alcohol markers and colored pencils will work. You can print your practice sheets on computer paper or card stock, which is a little more durable.

- To register for this online workshop, send an email to Mini Workshop Chair, Elizabeth Guillette AND Sandy Frydman – [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com), [ssfrydman@gmail.com](mailto:ssfrydman@gmail.com)

- **\$10 Fee**, payable by check or Zelle to Sandy Frydman. Sandy will send you the designs to print out and a list of materials, as well as payment info. If you don't have access to a printer, include your home address and she will mail you the materials.

- You will receive a Zoom invitation prior to the class.



Clockwise from left: Cynthia Karabush, Donna Koranek, Lisa Ornstein, Barbie Eich, Cheryl Cole, Beth Polonsky, Anne Goldberg, instructor Valerie Rodelli and Marilyn Graves.

## Circle of friends at December mini workshop

Our Dorset button/ornament mini workshop was a lot of fun. We had laughs and some challenges during class, but participants carried on and produced delightful items. I thank all of those who participated. If anyone is interested in making more, I have some extra kits.  
– Valerie Rodelli, [rodvd@aol.com](mailto:rodvd@aol.com)

## Share your Studio!

Virtual discussion on Zoom,  
Tues, Feb 11, 10:00 am - Noon

Join other members online and show us where you work on your projects and how you organize your materials. We will have an informal discussion about work space, gathering and storing supplies, and other related topics.

- Let Elizabeth Guillette know if you would like a Zoom link for this free online event, [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)
- If you'd like to share a photo of your studio, send it to Jan Harrington for the February newsletter, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)

### Have an idea for a mini workshop?

We encourage our members to share their talents by teaching a mini workshop.

Email Elizabeth Guillette for information:  
[ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)

## Button collage by Marla Florio

Sarah Ajlouni texted our small Sew Club a photo of a button collage. That inspired me to look at my large collection of buttons and beads. I created these mosaics by tracing the frame size onto the fabric. Stretch the prepared fabric onto an embroidery hoop. Choose the largest buttons and arrange them on the fabric and stitch them down. Create medallions around each button with more buttons and beads. Add smaller buttons and lots of beads to cover all the fabric. Remove the finished mosaic from the hoop and place on top of the frame. Wrap the remaining fabric around the frame as you would wrap a present and stitch the wrapped fabric together on the back.

I am sending these mosaics to friends, so they are named after them. The red and purple one is *Susan*, the green and tan one is *Sandi*.



## Craft for a Cause

Debbie De Palma is always on the lookout for public libraries supporting community groups and is sharing this post from the Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling. *Craft for a Cause* lists projects that can be made and donated at local drop off locations, including:

- Fill a Heart 4 Kids (Lake Forest)
- Gratitude Generation (Deerfield)
- Heartland Animal Shelter (Wheeling)
- Lemons of Love (Mount Prospect)

For details, patterns and tutorials, visit the website:

<https://www.indiantrailslibrary.org/craft-for-a-cause/>



## Rona Pietrzak observes the details

I recently attended the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, which included an exhibit of a few SAQA quilts. I found these two particularly interesting.

- **Staccato IV**, by Hope Wilmarth (above). I believe Hope quilted the black background, sewed the white-and-colors section onto it, and then quilted that section. The detail picture shows the impression of the vertical quilting behind the white central section, but there is no vertical quilting.

- **I'll Fly Away, #8**, by Laura Wasilowski. I was blown away by the overall composition and amazing detail of Laura's embroidered art quilt.



### NSNG SERVICE

For questions about service projects, contact Service Chair, Gretchen Alexander, [gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net) or Sue Babbs, [suebabbs385@gmail.com](mailto:suebabbs385@gmail.com) with Days for Girls.

### The Sewing Space

is now open at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Deerfield. Contact Valerie Koppenhaver with questions, [koppenhaver@comcast.net](mailto:koppenhaver@comcast.net)

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



## NSNG November workshop with Millicent Kennedy

*Printing and Painting Fabric with Indigo and Iron* with Millicent Kennedy was a great hands-on workshop. Millicent was a friendly and wonderful teacher and provided clear instructions for mixing and applying the dyes and fixatives. Photo at right shows Millicent using a silkscreen to apply a clay resist to fabric.

Over the course of two and a half days, students used clay resist to create images on cloth before dipping into the indigo dye vat. Students also used tannins and ferrous to add rich brown, almost black layers to their indigo dyed samples. Some chose to use citric acid to remove the darker marks from the ferrous (iron) to add further dimension to their work.

Positive energy flowed. Students used stencils, brushes, stamps, screen prints, and even kitchen utensils to create patterns and marks. Beautiful fabric was everywhere (literally). It was amazing to view the variety of work and celebrate the creativity of our group. What amazing final pieces will be produced remains to be seen. — *Mary Beth Michaels*



Penny Burns and Mary Beth Michaels using clay resist.



Photos by Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles

## NSNG WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION & POLICIES

Workshops are in this newsletter and online at [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org). If one is full, put your name on the waiting list. Often a spot opens up.

- Workshop Registration is made available to NSNG members before being made open to the general public.
- Registrants must have a fully paid NSNG membership and a current Participant Agreement on file in order to qualify for the member price for a workshop.
- The number of participants in a workshop is determined by the instructor and is not open to NSNG's discretion.

### Workshop Registration Procedure:

- Space in the workshop cannot be guaranteed or held without payment.

### Registration and Payment:

- Payment is made by credit card online at

our website, [NSNG.org](http://NSNG.org)

- If the workshop is full, you can request to be put on the waiting list.

### Non-Members:

- A non-member must pay an additional \$20 fee and have a current Participant Agreement on file.

### Waiting List:

- In the event that all spaces in a workshop are filled, a waiting list will be started for that workshop; there is no charge to be on the waiting list.
- A potential registrant on the waiting list will be contacted if a currently registered participant wants to sell their spot.

- The sale must be transacted through the Workshop Registrar.
- If there is no waiting list for the workshop, no refund is available.

### Supply Lists:

- A supply list is available for each workshop on the NSNG website.
- The supply list and logistics are sent in a reminder email to the workshop participants about a month in advance of the workshop.

Direct inquiries to Workshop Registrar,  
**Janet Tuzzolino,**  
[jmtuzz@gmail.com](mailto:jmtuzz@gmail.com), 847-707-1739



## Paper Cloth with Anne Kelly

In this exciting 4-day workshop with artist, author and tutor Anne Kelly, you will be starting with some samples to learn the technique of combining paper and cloth, culminating in the designing and making of a folding book form, a covered box or a wall hanging based on a favourite place close to home or further afield. All materials used in the class are readily available and you will be able to dip into your stash of fabric and ephemera to create a series of unique and treasured pieces. Anne will bring samples of her own work.

Travel, memory and collections remind us of places we have been or would like to visit. Make a personal and meaningful repository – a folding book or a hanging of a special place (actual or imagined). Working from techniques explored in her book 'Textile Travels,' Anne will be using printing, fabric collage, fabric and paper lamination, hand and machine stitching.



You will be aiming to complete a smaller 3D and a larger hanging piece during the course. You may cover an existing cardboard or thin wood box, and make other small samples.

Look through your collections, selecting old and new pieces of fabric, ephemera and

decorative paper to use for your pieces. It is helpful to decide on a theme or place and color scheme before you choose your materials. Sewing machines are helpful but not necessary.

• Anne Kelly is a member of the Embroiderers Guild, the European Textile Network and a member of the Crafts Council Directory. Her large mixed media textile embroideries are exhibited and collected in the UK and internationally. Her five books for Batsford are widely collected and studied.

• WEBSITE: [www.annekellytextiles.com](http://www.annekellytextiles.com)

### 4-DAY IN-PERSON

**WORKSHOP: FEE: \$260**

*Paper Cloth with Anne Kelly*

Tues, June 3 – Fri, June 6

9:30 pm - 4:00 pm each day

• Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pfigston, Northbrook



## Beyond Resist felting with Marjolein Dallinga

Following Marjolein's well-received workshop with NSNG this fall, we have invited her to return for further adventures!

This 5-day workshop, *Beyond Resist*, will deepen the consciousness about experiences learned from sculpting with wool and other fibers. Explorations will allow us to become more aware of how and why we want to use this medium. This workshop is inspired by different ideas on how to make three dimensional sculptures, making form from conceptual, intuitive and sensual sources.

We will explore different techniques for creating sculptural form, with themes like folding and unfolding, building relief, clamping, and binding. We will play with the processes of shortening, thickening, tightening and shrinking and other transformations of the felted surfaces. From our playful experiences, new discoveries occur when we work with this surprising medium of wool. *Some wet felting experience required.*

• Marjolein Dallinga was born in the Netherlands, studied Fine Arts and moved to Montreal, Canada, in 1989. Marjolein came upon the art of working with sheep's wool and became fascinated with the art of making felt, working with her hands. Marjolein has been teaching the art of sculptural felting worldwide. Studio 42 is Marjolein's textile art studio located in the Laurentians, Quebec, Canada.

• WEBSITE: [bloomfelt.com](http://bloomfelt.com)

### 5-DAY IN-PERSON

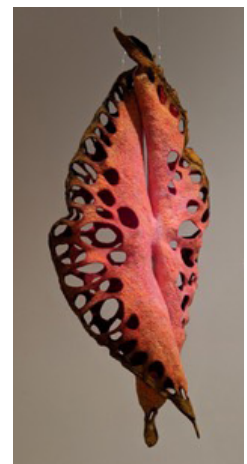
**WORKSHOP: FEE: \$450**

*Beyond Resist – sculptural felting with Marjolein Dallinga*

Mon, June 16 – Fri, June 20

9:30 am - 5:00 pm each day

• Kingswood United Methodist Church, 600 Deerfield Rd, Deerfield



**NOTE: New location for this workshop!**

REGISTER FOR THESE WORKSHOPS ON OUR WEBSITE (January 7) • [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.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 #1: 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.

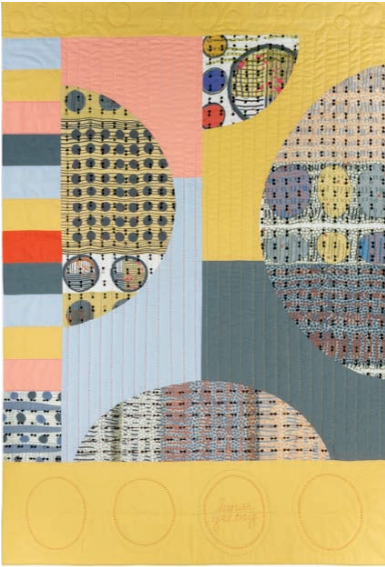
After sample making, the participants will create an individual piece of textile art, using one or more of the variations of the blanket stitch, combined with other stitches and appliqué. Participants can design their own piece, but there will also be several examples for inspiration. There will be both 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.

**2nd VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ADDED**  
**SAME CONTENT - \$85**

**Tues, Jan 21: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CT)**  
**Wed, Jan 22: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**  
**Thurs, Jan 23: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)**

**REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE**

**REGISTER FOR THIS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP 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.nsong.org](http://www.nsong.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 • [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.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 • [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 • [www.nsong.org](http://www.nsong.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 in the fall.

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

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publicity@nsng.org  
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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 the fall. 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 February issue will be sent out in late Jan. (Submission deadline: Jan 20)**

Please contact Newsletter Editor **Jan Harrington** with Show & Tell, announcements or corrections: **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**