NSNG
# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

NEWSLETTER *of the* NORTH SUBURBAN NeedleArts GUILD • NOVEMBER 2026

## Being president is fun

On page 4 of this newsletter you will see thoughts and insights that past Guild presidents have had about being president of NSNG.

Let me share some of mine. My biggest "insight" is that it's fun! Yes, there is a work involved, but none of it is particularly onerous, due to the work of all the other past presidents! You know the expression that you "don't want to see how the sausage is actually made"? Well, here is an example of "seeing the sausage made" doesn't turn you off! It reassures you.

Ours is a working Board, but it is not an overworked Board. The systems and processes are all in place. There is a calendar in place, one only adjusts specific dates for each year. Same with the forms and contracts that have been developed. Each Board position is clearly defined and needed documentation exists.

Biggest challenge? My own propensity to not check the calendar and deadlines that exist (this is not a new weakness)! To help with that, for the first time, the Guild now has two Co-Presidents. My Co-President, Sylvia Dresser, is more methodical, direct and "buttoned down" than I. She runs the Board Meetings very efficiently and I run the monthly Member Meetings; we are dividing duties that seem to best play to our skill set. We think we make a good team, and time will tell (no disasters so far!).

The president, and all Board members, always have many current and past Board members to turn to for help, clarification and historical context. Most any issue or query is answered and resolved with a few emails.

I have said before that this Guild is full of talented artists and amazing people. One way to know them better is taking workshops—another is to work with them on the Board. It's impressive to see how people step into and fill positions and how this organization works!

I am grateful to all the presidents who came before me for creating the structure and processes that allow this to be so rewarding—and fun!

**– Nancy Nicholson, Co-President,**
***nancy@nicholson.net***

Visit our Website: ***www.NSNG.org***



Ren LaDassor with an array of her sculptural embroidery work. She shared her creative journey with us at our October meeting.

## Sculpting moss with thread

Everyone really enjoyed working with Ren LaDassor at our October workshop. She is a wonderful generous instructor who taught us several stitches and ways to use them. We had many little "extras" to choose from her extensive "stash" to make each moss garden unique to each creator. It was a lovely way to spend a few days together stitching and the bonus was nearly everyone went home with a finished piece!

*– Cynthia Boudreau*



Ren was a delightful instructor who walked us through the project effortlessly and made the sewing enjoyable. She has a lot to offer, and I look forward to seeing where her embroidery journey takes her.

*– Marilynn Graves (project at left)*

**• More comments and photos on page 2**

**HYBRID MEETING: Tues, Nov 10 • 9:30 am** (CT)
In person at Gloria Dei or on Zoom
**Gail Crosman Moore** • *Nature as Nurture and Muse*
**FREEBIE TABLE! SERVICE TABLE! SHOW & TELL!**
Paper Piecing Mini Workshop • 1:00 pm (See page 5)

# October Workshop



Most of the participants of the *Sculptural Moss Embroidery* class in October:
Seated, from left: Helene Beckman, Candace Rich, instructor Ren LaDassor, Anne Goldberg, Dee McKenna.
Standing, from left: Kathy Kauffmann, Sue Babbs, Cindy Oppenheimer, Frances Krueger-Jackson, Debby Henning, Janet Tuzzolino, Sally Grover, JoAnne Baumann, Cynthia Boudreau.



Ren is a great instructor – enthusiastic, patient and engaging. She wants to learn as much as she wants to teach which makes for a great exchange of ideas in the class. Her lessons were balanced with plenty of time to work on the project so that you could leave with a (nearly) finished piece.

*–Cindy Oppenheimer*





Debby Henning and Janet Tuzzolino engaged in stitching their projects at the workshop.

I have been trying to get back into embroidery, and Ren's work and teaching have certainly helped move me in that direction.

*– Anne Goldberg*





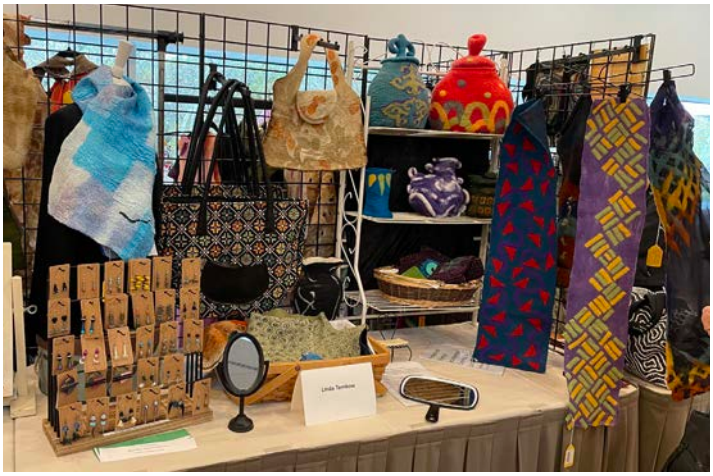
This was a great class with a knowledgeable teacher. It was a fun workshop and it was so nice to see how everyone's piece was so different.

*– Kathy Kauffmann*

The Sculptural Moss Workshop was great. My project came out much better than expected, which I think is a testament to the Instructor. Ren LaDassor is a great teacher. She provided well stocked kits and written instructions as well as showing us how to do the various stitches during the workshop. The large number of examples she brought also helped us in completing our projects. The fact that everyone in the workshop did a great job also speaks to the quality of the teacher. *– Helene Beckman*

As I haven't done embroidery for over 50 years and this was the first workshop since I joined the Guild earlier this year, I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Ren was so inspiring and I have been working on my moss project everyday since. She is so talented and I would definitely take her workshop again. Please do have her back. Everyone was so kind and gave wonderful tips as I was a newbie. I am definitely hooked on embroidery and cannot wait to start yet another project. *– Sally Grover*

**SHOW & TELL:** We like to see your projects! Show your work at our meetings.
Or send photos and descriptions to Newsletter Editor, Jan Harrington, ***janqharrington@gmail.com***






The Boutique features a wide array of talents, including felted wool and jewelry by Linda Tomkow and books by Debby Henning.

# Another fine show is right around the corner

IT'S SHOWTIME! The Fine Art of Fiber is on track for being one of our best shows yet! Here are a few reminders about the exhibit to help make this show one of the best for you, too.

Has your piece been folded in storage? Press or steam out any creases so that it hangs flush on the wall.

**Exhibit drop-off is 9:00 to 11:00 am on Thursday, Nov 5,** at Regenstein Center. We cannot guarantee that your piece will be hung if it comes in after 11. Please have pin-to-entry forms attached and visible for check-in. If your piece is for sale, get your sale tag from Barbara Peterson before going into Nichols Hall for drop-off.

If you have a lot to drop off on Thursday (or pick up on Sunday), the **gate code for the road that goes to the back of Regenstein is 52426.** A 20-minute parking limit has recently been set for those spaces in the circle behind Regenstein—our liaison will ask that that not be strictly enforced during set-up and take down, but be aware that you will not be able to park there for an extended period.

If you volunteered for Thursday set-up, please be at Regenstein by 9:00 am, and go to the head of the check-in line. Just a reminder that set-up is a full-day commitment (you get credit for 2 volunteer sessions) and continues after lunch. Your reward is that you can shop the soft opening of the Boutique that day.

Many of you are members of other guilds and organizations. Please share our digital postcard with them (available on the website: ***https://fineartoffiber.org***) and remind them that admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free on Friday, Nov 6 (parking rates apply), so load up those vans! Friday also features both **Fashion Shows, one at 11:00 and the other at 12:30**.

Parking and admission to the Garden is free to members dropping off, picking up, or volunteering at the show. **Just tell the gate attendants that you are working the show.**

Take down starts at 5:00 pm on Sunday but please do not plan on picking up your piece before 5:45 though we often are able to start earlier. Sold pieces from the exhibit get priority pickup. Sue Sweeney will begin distributing numbers for pickup around 3 pm on Sunday so you do not have to wait in line, but you will have to wait until your number is called to enter Nichols. Sue has also streamlined the pick-up process this year so it will go even faster.

## A bountiful Boutique!

The 2026 Boutique is jam packed with our own artists and makers! We have over 45 artists, including the turning tables with large size quilts in the exhibition area. The variety is endless! The Boutique has a "soft opening" on Thursday, Nov. 5 f**rom 2:00-4:00 pm** for Guild members, volunteers and CBG staff. The exhibition, turning tables and silent auction will not be available on Thursday! Be sure to tell your friends to visit the Boutique.

– Ronna Leibach, *bows23@gmail.com*

## Vendor slideshow REMINDER

Are you vending in the Boutique this year? We want to feature you! Before the main Fashion Show kicks off in the auditorium on Friday, Nov 6, we will be running a special slideshow spotlighting our talented vendors. This is a fantastic opportunity to get your work in front of the entire audience before the models hit the runway.

How to submit your work:

What to send: A high-quality photo attachment of your work.

What to include: Your full name and your Guild membership (NSNG, IQI, or Weavers Guild of the North Shore). Email your submission to Irene Lambo at ***itlambo@msn.com*** or Nancy Cross at ***nmcross@mac.com.***

Submission Deadline: Extended to **Saturday, October 31.**

• If you have any questions or need more details, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for helping us make this year's show spectacular!

– Irene Lambo, ***itlambo@msn.com***

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "Meet the Makers: Artists Tell their Stories" slide show. Many beautiful faces, beautiful pieces, and interesting stories. I feel privileged to know each of you.

As always, FAOF questions/comments/complaints to me.

– Nona Flores, ***ncflores52@gmail.com***

# Leaders of our pack

NSNG has had 27 presidents since it was formed in 1968. Today we have 9 members who have served – or are serving – as president of our Guild. I asked them to share some comments about their experience.

• After serving in several different roles on the Board, I find that my prior experiences have allowed me to make informed decisions as this year's Co-President. I also really enjoy sharing the responsibility, as we each bring something different to the role as President. – ***Sylvia Dresser*** (2026 - Present)



Valerie Rodelli, Luan Wold, Beth Polonsky and Nancy Nicholson (2024-2026, and co-president, 2026 - Present).

• My term as president, which began in May, 2020, had significant events! Two months before, on March 17th, the Board voted to cancel the April and May workshops due to COVID 19 (the vote was 11-yes, 7-no, so not at all unanimous!). The next several months were a jumble of learning about Zoom and completely revamping the program lineup, as many of our artists did not want to teach via Zoom. Maggie Weiss was the next program chair and we pulled in Debby Henning to help. They worked tirelessly to book quality artists that would teach virtually. We were virtual for everything for the next two years until our first in-person gathering in May of 2022, my last meeting as president. I don't have notes to be able to thank everyone who deserves it but, what I remember most is how everyone pulled together, did what needed to be done, and did not complain about it. Grace was given to each other because we were all just trying to do the best we could under such unprecedented circumstances.

I have never been so proud of what our Guild accomplished during that time, because we survived when some groups did not, and I think we became stronger than ever because of it. My profound thanks to you all. – ***Luan Wold*** (2020-2022)



Alice Jenks has been a member since 1973.

• I enjoyed my two years as president I had a wonderful group of women on my Board, We had many fine programs and workshops. After board meetings we usually had lunch together and enjoyed just socializing. I had been in charge of programs several years earlier. I recall having several of the artists stay with me at my home. – ***Alice Jenks*** (2010 -2012)

• My term and privilege as president of NSNG was a wonderful experience. The president needs a supportive board to work with. It is definitely a team effort. I was fortunate to have had that. As president I got to know most of the people in this Guild – yet another plus. Even non-board members were always there to help out and give good feedback. One of our teachers passed away shortly before she was scheduled for our monthly meeting and workshop. I called a member I thought would step up, Roz DeBoer, who responded and presented a program at the last moment. I always brought the whole board up to the front at the last meeting of the year I wanted the general membership to know who makes this Guild tick. If you get a call to serve on the Board, don't hesitate. NSNG continues to get better and better. It was a great experience and also FUN! – ***Valerie Rodelli*** (2014-2016)

• The honor of serving as Guild president two terms, was a rewarding experience. Note – they were not consecutive. I stepped up the second time as the rising leadership on the board were new and needed another year to learn about the responsibilities of their jobs. These board members were phenomenal and made my job a breeze. A good president delegates, trusts their board members and not micromanage. I was great at that as I am a procrastinator and very disorganized. But I can run a meeting and have no trouble getting in front of a group to talk. Talking is my strong point. Maybe a little too much. It's the best job I ever had. – ***Beth Polonsky*** (2012-2014 and 2016-2018)

• I was on the nominating committee in 2022 to help select a new president. At our Zoom meeting with Luan Wold and Cindy Heineman, I asked Cindy if she would consider the role. She said no, but how about YOU? So, after a moment, I stepped up! I have no regrets and thoroughly enjoyed working with the Board and speaking at meetings. A memorable event came in Oct 2023 when our speaker dropped out at the last minute. I turned to members for help. Alice Jenks graciously presented her wonderful "Journeys in Fiber." Valerie Rodelli also spoke – and the feedback was great!

– ***Jan Harrington*** (2022-2024)

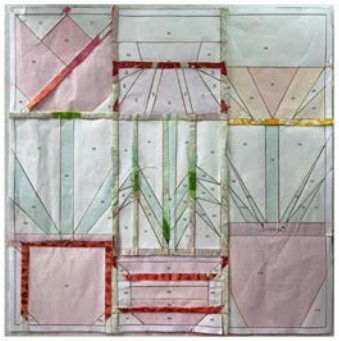


Sylvia Dresser, Mary Jo Eckhart, Jan Harrington and Penny Burns (2018-2020).

• Serving as NSNG president was an honor for me. Although I got much of the credit, the amazing board did all the heavy lifting. The way the guild has grown and evolved over the years is a reflection of the efforts of our many wonderful active members. NSNG is truly the Best Guild on the Planet.

– ***Mary Jo Eckhart*** (2008-2010)





**IN-PERSON MINI WORKSHOP WITH KAREN GRAGE**

## Mastering Foundation Paper Piecing: From Fundamentals to Fine Details

- **Tues, Nov 10, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Kingswood United Methodist Church, 600 Deerfield Rd, Deerfield

Whether you're taking your first steps in Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP) or sharpening existing skills, there's always a fresh trick to discover! In this hands-on workshop, we'll be stitching a potted flowers block while we tackle the nuances of FPP—from positioning odd-angle pieces and managing directional fabrics to aligning and joining sections seamlessly.

There will also be a demo exploring freezer paper piecing techniques so you can compare methods. Bring a fat quarter of your favorite background fabric and either scraps for your flowers or dive into our fully stocked scrap bins.

• Fee is $10 which will be donated to The Sewing Space

To **reserve your place,** email Mini Workshop chair, Elizabeth Guillette, ***ekguillette@gmail.com***

## NSNG Member Sale

**AT OUR POTLUCK ON TUESDAY, DEC 1**

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM AT GLORIA DEI**

**Members are invited to participate in our MEMBER SALE.** Showcase your latest creations, sell some of your unwanted stash or bring anything that will be useful for your friends at NSNG Each person will get **half of a six-foot table.** Please bring cash and if you have your own square or any other method of accepting credit cards.

**LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**

• To register, contact Elizabeth Guillette, ***ekguillette@gmail.com*** with your name, email, phone and a brief description of items to be sold.

**The Nature Artists' Guild is excited to present their annual**

## Autumn Art Exhibit

**The Morton Arboretum • November 13 - 15, 2026.**

This year's exhibit will showcase works by featured artist Terry McComb, along with over 200 pieces by nearly 60 members of the Nature Artists' Guild, including Cynthia Boudreau and Julie Rivera. The exhibit will open on Friday, Nov 13, at 10 am, and a reception, open to all, free of charge, will be held that evening from 5 until 8.

Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL.

***https://natureartistsguild.com/***

***https://mortonarb.org/*** (entry fee to the Arboretum required, (although your Botanic Garden memership is reciprocal)

# NSNG WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION & POLICIES

**Register for our workshops online at our website**: ***www.nsng.org***

• Workshop Registration is made available to members of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild (NSNG) before opening 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 fees are not refundable** unless workshop is canceled by NSNG (see also Waiting List).

• **Workshop registration is not transferable** (see also Waiting List).

**Non-Members:**

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

**Workshop Registration Procedure:**

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

Registration and Payment:

• Payment is by credit card on the website, ***NSNG.org***

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

**Waiting List:**

• **Workshops are not transferable.**

• **The sale of a participant's workshop spot must be transacted through the Workshop Registrar.**

• A "Wants to Sell" list is maintained by the registrar – this is the ONLY way for a registrant to sell a spot (this list is made up of paid registrants who have contacted the registrar wanting to sell their spot).

• 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 (on the *Wants to Sell* list) wants to sell their spot in the workshop.

• If there is no waiting list for the workshop, no recourse is available.

**Supply Lists:**

• A supply list is available for each workshop on the NSNG website.

• The supply list and logistics information are sent in a reminder email to the workshop participants about a month in advance of the workshop.

**Cancellation/Refund Policy:**

Refunds are only given if a workshop is canceled by NSNG (see Waiting List for only other option).

Direct inquiries to Workshop Registrar, **Luan Wold,** ***luanwold@gmail.com***





# Artist Gail Crosman Moore

Gail Crosman Moore is an award-winning multi disciplinary artist, bringing many years of experience and education, both as a teacher and student. Her BFA from Mass College of Art was in art education, which allowed her to explore the entire spectrum of the visual and tactile arts, and to build a love of surface, form, texture and color that transcends any one media. She has taught students of all ages and abilities, and has a wide following of admirers who are willing to cross disciplines to work with her.



Her work has been recognized and awarded through publication in many trade magazines including Ornament, Beadwork, Bead and Button, Lamagga, and several books have included her work in felt, glass, metals and paper. Awards include Saul Bell, 2009, an ART Grant and invitations to teach abroad which include trips to Japan, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Great Britain, Lithuania and the Bahamas.

Seeds, pods, bones, cocoons, shells, cells and eggs; the evidence of lives previously lived or in the process of becoming, are some of what capture her attention and drive her to interpret the forms that embody the essence of emergence, evolution and potential.

Although Gail's work has spanned many different fields and materials, a lifelong obsession with the essential, ancient seed pod has informed her work in all media. Whether she is painting, hammering, folding, sewing, or working in fire, it doesn't matter what materials are in her hands – it's certain that the varied forms of the Pod, the vessel of life, will emerge.

• WEBSITE: ***www.gailcrosmanmoore.com***

**HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, Nov 10: 9:30 am** (CT)

*Nature as Nurture and Muse*

Gail's lecture is series of images of her inspirations, followed by the work generated through influence. There is a richness on many levels regarding Gail's rudimentary forms of inspiration. Pods, eggs, seeds and seashells serve to hide, conceal and protect a vulnerable interior as it offers unseen potential: opening doors to hope, beauty and mystery. Gail's pieces come from a place where biology and botany might meet time travel.

**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:**

*A Marriage of Shrink Plastic and Wool – Exploring Texture, Style, Form* **FEE: $250**

**Tues, Nov 10: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
**Wed, Nov 11: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**
**Thurs, Nov 12: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**



In the workshop, we will be exploring two materials in particular: wool and shrink plastic. Our job will be to explore both materials, changing the shape of plastic using molds and holding wool in shape with gelatin. In keeping with our "commitment to embroidery" we can create holes in the plastic before shrinking, letting us sew through them.

• Gail will supply all materials.

***It's the yin-yang, push-pull, hard-soft, shiny-matte, cold-warm dichotomy that intrigues her and calls her to juxtapose many different materials.***

# Textile Artist Mirjam Gielen

Mirjam Gielen is a Dutch textile artist creating organic embroidery. She is inspired by nature, especially by its patterns, colors and textures. She often creates new, imaginary images derived from what she sees in the natural world. Her preference for natural colors prompted her to start eco dyeing and eco printing. Mirjam finds that the randomness of eco prints results in a surface that invites intuitive stitching and encourages a dialogue with the fabric.



Mirjam 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 idea way to refresh her brain in between chapters and double her creativity. Over the years this practice grew into something more serious.

Sharing her process, her knowledge and experience with others makes her happy.

• WEBSITE: ***www.patreon.com/cw/mirjamtextiles***

***A note from Mirjam to NSNG:***

"I loved working with your group in January, 2025. There was a lot of enthusiasm, but also mutual support and a relaxed atmosphere. Even though we were many miles apart, it was easy to connect. I was overwhelmed by the creativity and inventiveness of the members. They created unique pieces that showed how quickly they absorbed the workshop and could translate that into personal interpretation. I'm looking forward very much to stitching together again."



**VIRTUAL LECTURE:**
**Tues, Jan 5: 9:30 am** (CT)
*The Benefits of Hand Embroidery: What You Put into It and What You Get Out of It*

There is a lot to tell about hand stitching being beneficial for your well being in many aspects (quite a bit of scientific research), but there can be the other side like your inner critic holding you back, past experiences, feeling in competition with others, etc. Mirjam will address both sides, from personal experience.



**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:** *Versatility of the Running Stitch* **FEE: $65**

**Tues, Jan 5: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** (CT)
**Wed, Jan 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm** (CT)
**Thurs, Jan 7: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm** (CT)

In this workshop participants will explore the versatility of the running stitch. First by making a sample piece with several variations on the running 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 stacked running stitch, a variation of the running stitch that is used in Indian Kantha stitching. With this stitch you can create organic patterns reminiscent of ripples in water or sand on the beach, but also tree bark or the patterns of animal skins like zebra.

We will create a small triangular scent bag together, decorated with running stitch in one of the variations from the sample.



After that we will stitch on a felt dryer ball with the stacked running stitch but if participants want to use this stitch on something else, a piece of clothing for instance, that is also a possibility.

# Beading Artist Heather Kingsley-Heath

Heather Kingsley-Heath is a British artist with a background in design, and a long-standing passion for the handmade. Heather explores the creative possibilities of both beadwork and textiles, often combining many techniques into mixed media creations.



Known for her distinctive use of color, texture, and form, she combines her continuing research of traditional craftsmanship; with a contemporary aesthetic to create pieces that are both intricate and contemplative. Heather has developed a practice rooted in tradition and imagination, inspiring others to discover the creative potential of beads and textiles as art forms. She continues to explore how materials, process, and meaning intertwine in the language of making.

Based in the United Kingdom, her work is exhibited, published, and taught internationally.

• WEBSITE: ***https://heatherworks.co.uk/***

**VIRTUAL LECTURE: Tues, Feb 2: 9:30 am** (CT)

*The Interaction of Influence in the Works of Gustav Klimt*

As an introduction to the workshop "Sublime Geometry," the lecture explores the work of Gustav Klimt, the influences and the narrative which surrounded the artist both in his studio and in the wider context of the period in which he lived.

Taking influence as a theme, and the complexities of interaction, influence and the slightly more controversial cultural appropriation, we explore the wider concept of how inspiration from the past can be used as a tool to generate contemporary work in an honest and original way.







**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:**

*Sublime Geometry* **FEE: $45**

**Tues, Feb 2:** **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** (CT)
**Wed, Feb: 3:** **9:30 am – 4:00 pm** (CT)
**Thurs, Feb 4:** **9:30 am – 4:00 pm** (CT)

First created as a masterclass for the Beadworkers Guild in the UK, this is a workshop to explore inspiration and interpretation with seed beads.

There are several layers to the class, which takes students on a journey through the thought processes and experiments that take a source of inspiration into finished contemporary beadwork To develop an understanding how to use source material, Klimt's use of pattern and colour in his portraits provide discussion points for symbolism, and layered meaning.

The interpretation of color from one medium to another, examines four Klimt portraits to provide both motif and color inspiration. Color work includes creating a color palette, and how to distribute color to enhance the beaded shapes.

The beading is a series of flat beaded shapes, with further inspiration for how to create, plan and combine them. The shapes can also be linked, or used to make three dimensional forms.

The resolution is to create new beadwork from the information gathered. I supply step by step instructions for several shapes and techniques and students will be able to copy a class sample or create their own combinations.

For students to gain maximum enjoyment from the class, a basic working knowledge of beading with seed beads and thread is required. Techniques are explained with step-by-step diagrams for each of the beadwork shapes.

***"I work with beadwork and textiles to explore how materials can tell stories. A story has many layers: the simple delight in a delicious combination of colors and textures; the meaning attached to a particular element; a response to an event, place, object or relationship."***

*– Heather Kingsley-Heath*

Workshop registration opens Nov 10 • www.nsng.org

# Textile Artist Jennifer Reis

"I create embellished textile assemblages that investigate the ornamentation and armoring of female bodies sited in a Catholic aesthetic. My work marries traditional sewing, embroidery and embellishing techniques and materials with found objects to create decorative, iconic objects that exist as female power figures. The textile works are all hand-sewn and beaded, created through a slow-art process. The creative act is a meditative process of hand stitching and beaded, echoing traditional liturgical garment embellishment.



My work concerns the female form as an ornamented and empowered form existing within a ritualized context. As an artist, my point of view is inspired and informed by fashion, feminism, and a Catholic aesthetic rooted in my upbringing as a German-American. Fashion has been a constant personal and socio-cultural interest of mine from a very young age. Designers/artists like Alexander McQueen and Iris Van Herpen epitomize the concept of fashion as both armor and decoration that inspire me. Feminism is embedded as I intend to create images of the feminine as beautiful warrior.

Being exposed to German Baroque religious architecture, art, and iconography as a young person has influenced the excessively embellished and iconic format consistently utilized as visual forms in the body of work. The intention of the works is to exist in the world as objects of beautiful power."

Currently, Jennifer Reis is a professor at UNC-Greensboro and is on the teaching roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

• WEBSITE: ***www.jenniferannreis.com/***



**HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, March 2: 9:30 am** (CT)

*Domestic Unrest: Embellished Textiles and Mixed Media Works*

Textile and mixed media artist Jennifer Reis will give a lecture on her process, concepts, and inspirations that inform her body of work centering around female imagery and social commentary.

**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:** *Embellished Textile Collage* **FEE: $215**

**Tues, March 2: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Wed, March 3: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm • Thurs, March 4: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**



Textile art practices – including art quilting – are increasingly incorporating the unlimited potential of using mixed media to enrich and enliven through unique surface design. In this class, embellished textile techniques applique, quilting, thread and bead embroidery, and utilizing photographic images are just a few of art textile techniques students will learn and incorporate into projects.

Students will create two primary projects: 1) a technique sampler, and 2) a self-directed artwork utilizing textile surface design skills.

Through the technique sampler, students explore how to utilize textile techniques to create fine art objects, and will learn the following skills: hand sewing, traditional and raw appliqué, hand embroidery techniques, hand beading and embellishing with traditional and non-traditional materials, shi-sha mirror and sequin application, individual consultation on basic principles of color and composition, and presentation of finished artwork.

Students will then develop, design, and create personalized mini textile artwork.

Workshop registration opens Nov 10 • www.nsng.org

# Artist Pat Baum Bishop

Pat Bishop is a mixed media artist using paint, fabric, an iron and a sewing machine, whose work is mostly abstract. She teaches, lectures and exhibits in fine art and fiber art exhibits. She has written articles for numerous publications and has appeared on Quilting Arts TV, TheQuiltShow.com and TextileArtist.com.

She has been making art and sewing all her life, now living in Shawano, WI. She gets much of her inspiration from nature and her work is a reflection of her interest in nature preservation and a desire to use her art as a way to preserve memories.



***ARTIST'S STATEMENT:***

Working with textiles gives results that can be challenging and pleasingly unpredictable which feeds my desire to be a problem solver. Being out in the woods, near the water, investigating plants, trees, birds and other living creatures feeds my creativity. My work is not exactly planned, though there is a feeling that I'm trying to express. Simplicity and abstraction are my driving forces. Use of texture, simple shapes and color are integral to my process.

One very true description of my work by Mary Carson of TextileArtist.org states "simplification isn't just an abstract art technique. It's her superpower! Pat's art quilts truly prove less is more, and her ability to combine limited details with bold colours and shapes packs a serious punch."

• WEBSITE: ***www.patbishop.info/***

**HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, April 13: 9:30 am** (CT)

*Creative? Me? Yes you are!*

I will talk about how we are all creative but don't recognize it as creativity. In this trunk show I will point out how problem solving is basically using your creativity to come up with different solutions. It seems I am always trying to solve problems along the way. Whether our creativity shows itself in how we dress, how we decorate our home, how we talk to others, cooking and gardening, it all takes creativity. I will give tips on how to encourage the creativity within each of us.





**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:**

*Abstraction Distraction* **FEE: $140**

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|---|---|
| **Tues, April 13:** | **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** |
| **Wed, April 14:** | **9:30 am – 4:00 pm** |
| **Thurs, April 15:** | **9:30 am – 4:00 pm** |

In this class you will learn what abstract is and how to think abstractly. Expand your creativity with no quilting rules or rulers. This is not a class for perfectionists, come with an open mind and a sense of adventure. Fusing is our main technique, completed with machine quilting, which can be free motion or not.

We will explore different ways of starting your abstract creations and will focus on "simplification" as one method to get your juices flowing. You can take it from there in any direction you choose. My goal is to remove the fear of failure and help you be successful.

We will talk about methods of quilting, and finishing and mounting your piece.

Workshop registration opens Nov 10 • www.nsng.org

# Quilter Sujata Shah

While growing up in India, rich colors, hand woven textiles and hand-crafts were part of Sujata Shah's daily life. She learned to appreciate the irregularities and imperfections of handmade crafts. Her instinctive ability to work with colors and textures combined with education in graphic design has helped her develop a unique style as a quilt designer.



Sujata is an award-winning quilter and designer. She finds inspiration in the rich handmade tradition of her home country, India, the quilts of Gees Bend, Indian and American utilitarian quilts, and African textiles.

As a calligraphy major, she believes that each handmade craft has a stamp of the maker. Through her book, *Cultural Fusion Quilts*, she introduced free-form blocks, an abstract interpretation of traditional quilt blocks to reflect her theory.

Talking about the process of finishing quilts, she says, ''I find hand stitching therapeutic and nourishing to the soul. I rarely have a plan before the start of a quilt. Designing a quilt is an evolving process. I believe as the quilt evolves, I simply become the instrument in the making of that quilt.''

• WEBSITE: ***https://therootconnection.blogspot.com/***

***"Through my quilts I remain connected to my past, my culture and heritage. The more I hand stitch, stories of my daily life get stitched into my quilts."***
*– Sujata Shah*



**HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, May 4: 9:30 am** (CT)

*The Root Connection – My Journey as a Quilter*

Join Sujata as she shares her quilts and talks about her daily life as a quilter. How somewhere during the making of each quilt, whether it is the fabric selection, constructing the quilt top, or finishing the quilt by hand, she ends up writing stories in stitches.

Her presentation includes a slide show of her travels in India as well as her journey as a quilter. The slide show is followed by the trunk show of original quilts. She will share how she connects the dots between the memories of the past and today's creative process.

**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:** *Improv Patchwork – Free Form Blocks and Kawandi* **FEE: $265**

**Tues, May 4: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Wed, May 5: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm • Thurs, May 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Improv Patchwork:** This workshop invites students to explore and construct a series of free-form blocks in a variety of sizes. You'll learn Sujata's layered cutting and organic piecing method—a process that's unique, fast, and fun. By the end, each student will take home at least six well-constructed blocks, which can become a small sampler quilt or evolve into an art quilt featuring one of the blocks from class. Along the way, we'll dive into the origins of these designs, the stories behind the quilts, and Sujata's approach to color and texture.

Students will also be encouraged to develop their own techniques further, carrying these ideas into future improv works. This class is as much about inspiration and discovery as it is about hands-on construction.



**Kawandi:** Sujata will also teach how to create a Kawandi (at left), a utility quilt made by the African diaspora/ Siddi community of India. A spool of thread and a needle, a few scraps and mindful stitching combined with a simple technique are the only elements needed for this age-old art of quilting.

Learn the step-by-step process and unique way to make a quilt. Through the experience of true improvisational process, we will discover how to harmonize our minds and bodies with the rhythm of stitching. Explore different ways of personalizing a quilt, to breathe easy, and write your own stories in stitches.

*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.*




## THE SEWING SPACE

Join us to work on projects such as port pillows, pillowcases, lap robes, quilts, and other small items. Come any time, stay as long as you wish, and enjoy fellowship and treats. Questions? Contact Service Chair, Candace Rich, ***glasspath48@gmail.com***

**Kingswood United Methodist Church**
600 Deerfield Rd, Deerfield
**Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**
*(except NSNG meeting days).*
• Contact Valerie Koppenhaver with questions about The Sewing Space, ***valerie@thesewingspace.org***
• The Sewing Space website: ***https://thesewingspace.org/***

## 2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

NSNG Meetings are held at 9:30 am (CT) on Tuesday mornings at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pfingston, Northbrook, followed by a 2.5 day workshop. **All are also offered on Zoom,** with January and February meetings and workshops on ZOOM only.

**Details in this newsletter and on our website, *www.nsng.org***

- Nov 10, workshop Nov 10-12
- Nov 10, Paper piecing mini workshop
- Dec 1: Holiday Potluck & Member Sale
- Jan 5, 2027, virtual workshop Jan 5-7
- Feb 2, virtual workshop Feb 2-4
- March 2, workshop March 2-4
- April 13, workshop April 13-15
- May 4, workshop May 4-6
- July 20: Summer Potluck & Member Challenge

• **NEWSLETTER:** The NSNG newsletter is published monthly (except for July and Aug) and sent digitally to all members a few days before each meeting. It is also available on our website, ***www.nsng.org.*** A Zoom link for our meetings will be sent with the newsletter. Send submissions for Show & Tell and other articles by the 3rd week of the previous month to Newsletter Editor, **Jan Harrington**, *janQharrington@gmail.com.*

• **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: **Karen Jones,** *souldprod50@gmail.com*

• **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!***

• **WEBSITE & FACEBOOK:** Our website – ***www.nsng.org*** – includes info about programs and workshops, service opportunites, and more. Registration for workshops and membership renewals are all done on our website. Share your work and stories of interest on our **FACEBOOK** page: North Suburban NeedleArts Guild.

• **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 Pfingston 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!**

## NSNG Board • 2026 - 2027

**NOTE: The email addresses in this newsletter are for <u>your personal use only</u>.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Co-President | **Nancy Nicholson** | nancy@nicholson.net 847-533-4818 |
| Co-President | **Sylvia Dresser** | sylviadresser@gmail.com 847-945-6095 |
| 1st Vice-President | **Al Krueger** | akrubear@aol.com |
| 2nd Vice-President | **Rona Pietrzak** | pietrzakrona@gmail.com |
| 2nd Vice-President | **Jil Levin Deheeger** | jil2462@gmail.com |
| Secretary | **Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles** | creynolds.fefles.artist@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | **Cindy Oppenheimer** | cb_bus@comcast.net |
| Membership | **Karen Jones** | souldprod50@gmail.com |
| Workshop Registrar | **Luan Wold** | luanwold@gmail.com |
| Hospitality | **Cynthia Boudreau** | cboudreau391@gmail.com |
| Special Events | **Barb Maneck** | happydragn@yahoo.com |
| Mini Workshop Chair | **Elizabeth Guillette** | ekguillette@gmail.com |
| Publicity Chair | **Frances Krueger-Jackson** | publicity@nsng.org |
| Member Challenge | **Lu Betcher** | lubetcher@gmail.com |
| Service Chair | **Candace Rich** | glasspath48@gmail.com |
| Webmaster & Social Media | **Valerie Koppenhaver** | webmaster@nsng.org |
| Newsletter Editor | **Jan Harrington** | janQharrington@gmail.com |
| Fine Art of Fiber Chair | **Nona Flores** | ncflores52@gmail.com |
| FAOF Committee | **Valerie Koppenhaver** | webmaster@nsng.org |
| | **Ronna Leibach** | bows23@gmail.com |
| | **Frances Krueger-Jackson** | publicity@nsng.org |
| Past President | **Nancy Nicholson** | nancy@nicholson.net |