



## Golden Gate Weavers Guild Newsletter March, 2019

The March meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 9:30 am, in the meeting room at Sports Basement, 2727 Milvia Street, Berkeley, 94703. An agenda will be sent out just prior to the meeting.

### **Around the Guild**

#### **March Program**

This month, embroidery artist/musician Caroline Dahl will be our featured speaker. A little about Caroline:

Caroline, hailing from Louisville, Ky., has lived in San Francisco for almost 40 years. She is an Internationally recognized embroidery artist and boogie woogie piano player. (Currently playing in the band, Tom Rigney and Flambeau.) She is self-taught in embroidery, having been initially influenced by hippie-era clothes imported from Mexico and India. Her style is narrative, and humorous, often having a diary-like quality with the use of text. Recent work has been combining embroidery with applique. With few exceptions, her finished work is rather small, under 25" X 25", making it portable, and easy to do at home in her small condo, or while on the road, traveling with the band.

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#### **Study Group**

Study Group meets Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:00 AM. We will continue our study of double cloth

This is coming to you a little late. February is a short month and I was in denial that March 1st was sneaking up on me. At any rate, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. I know there is a perfectly good reason for February only having 28 days (although the earth orbits the sun and not the moon so I'm not sure why the Romans worked from the lunar year) but why couldn't they have stolen a day from January and a day from March and have four 30-day months in a row? Makes sense to me.

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Our February meeting was at the home of member Susie Hodges. We voted to make Vicky McAdams the Guild Secretary as she has been the de facto secretary since September. Welcome to the Board, Vicky.

We had a good discussion about upcoming Guild shows and whether we should submit a proposal to EBMUD for a 2020 exhibition. Further discussion will be on the March agenda, and the Show Committee has asked that members come to the meeting with ideas for a show theme that can be put into the proposal.

and double weave, focusing on double weave pickup. Bring any examples or samples you have of double cloth or simple handwoven purses. A handout, coffee, tea and a snack will be provided. Contact [info@goldengateweavers.org](mailto:info@goldengateweavers.org) for more information.

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## Library Corner

If you are interested in indigo dyeing, you might want to check out a pamphlet we have, called "Kasuri". Kasuri is another word for Ikat dyeing. The author is Kathleen Marty. She has travelled extensively in Japan, searching out places where this dye technique still exists as a hand dyeing technique. She mentions that an Indigo dye bath can be maintained for up to six months, if treated correctly. She also gives many samples of how to tie the warp or weft for dyeing. Check it out!

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## Events Around the Bay

### Richmond Art Center

Empowering Threads: Quilts from the Social Justice Sewing Academy; Place as Landscape/Place as Concept: Contemporary Enameling in the US; The Art of Living Black  
All January 15 - March 8, 2019

Here is the Sea; Faces Without Noses; 54th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show; Richmond Creates: the 7th Annual Art in the Community Show  
All March 26 - May 17, 2019

[www.richmondartcenter.org](http://www.richmondartcenter.org)  
• **De Young Museum**

Monet: the Late Years, February 16 - May, 27, 2019

[www.deyoung.famsf.org](http://www.deyoung.famsf.org)

The group talked about the state of the membership and the strength of the Guild right now, with most everyone agreeing that our developing web site will help attract new members and strengthen the Guild. I have been working closely with our "site developer" and it is starting to come together. I am writing text for the various pages, one of which is a "Links" page. The list of links I have compiled is by no means exhaustive, (museums, CNCH, etc.) so please send me ideas for links to be included on the site. The page will be interactive, so clicking on a link should take you to the web site. There will also be a Gallery page, and an agenda item for March will be how we might select members' pieces to put on the page. And, our site will be viewable on smart phones and tablets as well as on computers.

Susie did a great job for the February program, inspiring many of us to make small bags and pouches. She had many of her own small bags to share, some she made and some from other sources, as well as a great library of books on the subject. It was fun passing around her bags and bags the members happened to have with them.

Call for contributors! Guild members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Send a link to an article you think others would enjoy or, if you wish to write a short piece for the the Guild, please do so. Or, if you attended an exhibition or event you think the members might like hearing about, please send along a few lines and a few photos. It will be much appreciated.

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## Exciting Times

There are a number of fiber-related events happening in the next few months that deserve to be called out rather than put into the Events Around the Bay column.

- The City of Berkeley's Civic Center Art Exhibition begins March 1st. This year's annual Civic Center Art Exhibition displays the art of 31 individuals,

• **San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles**

International Techstyle Art Biennial IV  
Evanscence: Judith Content  
Both January 20- April 14, 2019

The Marbaum Collection: Variations in  
Techniques  
H2OH!  
Kristen Martincic: Swim Club  
All April 21 - July 14, 2019

Momentary & Timeless  
April 21 - June 2, 2019

Stone Portraits and Sacred Stonescapes:  
Denise LaBadie  
June 5 - July 14, 2019

Mayan Trajae: A Tradition in Transition  
July 21, 2019 – October 13, 2019

Borders  
July 31, 2019 – October 13, 2019

[www.sjqmusem.org](http://www.sjqmusem.org)

**UC Davis Design Museum**

Weaving and Woodwork: A  
Scandinavian Design Partnership  
January 21 - April 21, 2019

[www.arts.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arts.ucdavis.edu).

**Classes at Windrush Farm**

Windrush Farm in Chileno Valley  
(Sonoma County) offers many spinning  
and natural dying classes. Check their  
web site for details.

[www.windrushfarm.wordpress.com](http://www.windrushfarm.wordpress.com)

**Hello Stitch Studio**

Entropy Always Wins:  
Hillary Goodwin

February 27 - April 28, 2019

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

Fibershed, an agricultural co-op in  
northern California, has a great website  
with articles, programs, and events.

whose pieces were selected through a juried  
process and whose work represents a range of  
styles and mediums, including painting,  
photography, mixed media, textile, print, and  
sculpture. These works will be displayed on all  
five floors of the Martin Luther King Civic Center  
Building for the coming year.

- On March 9, at 10:00 am, the Textile Arts Council is hosting its annual Sinton Lecture: Creating Uncommon Threads. Virginia Davis, and two other textile artists will speak. Virginia's work was selected from a field of international artists, and the works were three-dimensional and confined in size to an archival box. Hence the name *The Box Project: Uncommon Threads*. The lecture is at the Koret Auditorium, de Young Museum.
- The UC Botanical Garden will host a Fiber and Dye Family Day on March 16, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Louise Schiller is a docent at the garden and has asked Guild members to volunteer for demonstrations. <http://events.berkeley.edu> .
- Bolinas Museum's Coastal Marin Artists Gallery will have an exhibition of Jan Langdon's work. The exhibit is *Loomed*, and is curated by Elia Haworth. [www.bolinasmuseum.org](http://www.bolinasmuseum.org).
- The Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association is having its 2019 quilt show, *Quilts Celebrating Creativity*, on May 4th and 5th at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Our Guild received an individual invitation from the Association, indicating it wants to support the efforts of other textile artists. More information can be found at [www.scvqaquiltshow.org](http://www.scvqaquiltshow.org).
- Mark your calendars: the Craft in America Center in Los Angeles will have a textile exhibit *Material Meaning: a Living Legacy of Anni Albers*. The exhibit will run from July 13 - September 21, 2019, and will feature the works of the

Check it out at [www.fibershed.com](http://www.fibershed.com).

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#### Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit any items to be included in the April, 2019 newsletter by March 25, 2019. E-mail items to [kokomiya@comcast.net](mailto:kokomiya@comcast.net) or [karen.schwartz@icloud.com](mailto:karen.schwartz@icloud.com).

Golden Gate Weavers Guild meets the third Monday of the month 9:30 a.m. at Sports Basement, 2727 Milvia St. Berkeley (between Derby and Ward), except for June, July, Aug and Dec.



contemporary American textile artists who are influenced by Anni Albers.

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Our Spotlight Weaver this month is Sandy Drobny. Here is how Sandy describes herself and her art. And, some examples of her work.

I saw a loom for the very first time when I was in college, at U.C. Davis. I had given in to my creative side by making the switch from pursuing a degree in biology to study art and design. As far as my family was concerned, this was not a wise decision, but it has served me well, and I am overjoyed to be an artist, a weaver, and an art teacher.

At U.C. Davis, I took summer classes in the Design program's weaving studio. I fell in love with ikat, a technique that involves binding sections of yarn in a pattern and then dyeing the warp and/or weft prior to weaving. My professors at Davis instilled in me a reverence for surface design techniques, textile manipulation, and the study of clothing and costume from diverse cultures throughout history.

At the beginning of my career, I used my 4-harness Schacht Spindle loom to weave hundreds of yards of hand-dyed ikat cloth that I made into scarves, jackets, and tunics. I sold my handwoven creations at art galleries and craft fairs, and I participated in as many fashion shows as time would allow.

By the year 2000, my weaving interests had shifted, and I veered away from traditional weaving in favor of using alternative materials, found objects, and discarded scrap materials in my work. I was simultaneously attracted to and repulsed by bright, shiny plastic shopping bags, and I began to use them in my work. I applied and was accepted into Recology's coveted Artist-in-Residence program at the San Francisco dump. For 3 months in 2004, I had full access to the transfer station and all the discarded treasures I could load into my shopping cart. During this art residence, I integrated my fondness for vintage aprons, my vibrant sense of color, and my desire to call attention to the needless waste and detrimental harm plastic bags unleash on our environment.



I continue to use the apron form as my template and medium for expressing political opinions, poking fun at popular culture, celebrating history, and infusing humor, whimsy, and pure joy into each garment I create. I have two additional art residencies under my belt, including one with St. Vincent de Paul, and one at the City of El Cerrito Recycling Center. In addition to the aprons, I have used woven plastic bags to fashion evening gowns and wedding dresses. I am a frequent participant in the Maker Faire, I have a weaving studio in Alameda, and I am pleased that so many publications have expressed interest in my artwork. Articles about my work have been featured in Handwoven, Paste magazine, Ripley's Believe It or Not, and I was also mentioned two separate times in Leah Garchik's SF Chronicle column.

As a member of Golden Gate Weaver's Guild since 1988, I have met weavers with a wide variety of textile-related interests. I admire those of you who tackle fine yarns and complex weaves. My artwork is labor-intensive, but at its core, it's simply plain weave or twill, dressed up with a pop of color, fine tailoring, and a sense of environmental responsibility.

