



WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILD

Guild Sale 2011

October 2011

Focusing on the continuing theme of 'Designing Women', this year's Guild Sale featured weaving, knitting and spun fibre in an array of creative design and colour. The sale date was changed from the three day Thanksgiving weekend because the venue at ArtSpring was not available but, despite the shortened sale to just two days, it was as successful as in previous years and reflected the excitement generated by the publicity and the growing popularity of the event.

In her report, sale coordinator Sandra Hodgins provided a detailed review of how the event was received; who attended and identified what items were most popular and sold well. Her hard work in coordinating the event and the delegating tasks that ensured its success were applauded by the membership who subsequently asked that she take on a similar role next year. Copies of her report were distributed to members and are available on request.

Susan



Publishing:

Send in photos for the weaving or spinning galleries, from the Fall Fair or from the Guild Sale. Other ideas?

Items for Sale? Articles? Please let me know for the next issue. Email Rachel at: rachel@ogis.ca



Editorial

This year, the guild sale involved all Guild members in preparing for and promoting the event in a collaborative process that reflect the creative energy and easy companionship of the membership. Throughout the summer while Thursday meetings were held in private homes, members worked together creating bright pink pompoms to be used to heighten islander's awareness of the upcoming sale. The pompoms were used on cars, fences and to identify guild members and to draw attention begging the question "what's going on". Prior to the event, public places were 'yarn bombed' in an array of colour. Public benches grew striped feet; fences and gates were decorated with knitting and weaving in cobwebs of bright colours designed to catch the eye and create awareness of the sale.

Not only was there purpose in the exercise; it created a focus for the group to work together and was fun and entertaining. At one event, some senior guild members who might be expected to be more sedate were caught showing off their pompoms while reciting a poem (author anonymous). Picture attached.

While the guild is about developing excellence in weaving, spinning and the associated crafts, the camaraderie of the group working together was reflected in the achievements of another successful guild sale. At a subsequent meeting, it was agreed the sale would be an annual event and would continue to demonstrate those achievements and the supportive environment in which the many beautiful submissions were created.

The Pompom song

We are 3 gals from the park
you may think we came over on the ark
But you'll be surprised to know
we can put on a great show.
We can flaunt our boobies
and shake our boodies
as well as the rest of yousies.
We can hold up our end
maybe can't bend
But we have a hell of
a lot of fun trying.
Welcome, welcome, welcome

Susan Astill
Editor

President's Message

I haven't seen the final figures for the sale yet but I would really like to send out thanks to the guild in general and Sandra in particular for the great job that was done in putting on this show. Sandra did a fantastic job of quietly organizing and delegating, Susan Brown and her crew did a great job of hanging the show and everyone who participated did so with enthusiasm and joy. I know that thanks should also go out to Sandra's husband Don who worked for us behind the scenes. We had so much fun this summer in preparing the pom poms and all the silliness that went along with it. It was great all around.

Bev Lilyman
Interim President



Equipment

Our Guild has an extensive equipment inventory of items from looms, spinning wheels, drum carders and other large items to small items such as hand carders, shuttles, and so on.

All these items are available for rent to guild members at a reasonable monthly rate and can be accessed at any of our regular weavers' meetings on Thursdays at Art Spring. A deposit is required. If you would like further information and/or assistance, please contact our equipment co-ordinator, Mary Paddon.

Library Notes

Our library is accessible during guild meetings and by appointment with the Librarian, Cheryl Weibe. If you are unable to attend any of these spinning or weaving meetings, an alternative time can be arranged with Mary or Cheryl to rent equipment or borrow library items.

Membership

We have 50 members as of November 2011. Welcome to our new members!

Outreach

Do you know someone would like to learn to weave but cannot attend our Thursday morning guild meetings?

We may have a solution! A new Outreach initiative is underway to bring weavers together during evening classes. Here are some reasons to consider participating:

- opportunity to talk/hear about weaving projects (trials & triumphs)
- keep up to date with community fibre events & opportunities
- get information on other Guild activities (workshops, sales, shows)
- get help with a new (or stalled) project
- tap into the Guild's resources (equipment, books, magazines, people)
- make a new friend

All levels of experience are welcome. We can even help a non-weaver find a teacher.

So, if you know someone (and perhaps it is you!) who would enjoy informal evening meetings to explore weaving topics do get in touch, please.

Sandra
Outreach Coordinator
250-537-5406 softwear@shaw.ca



2011/2012 Executive

President:	Penny Polden
Past-President:	Bev Lillyman
Vice-President:	Susan Astill
Treasurer:	Valerie Short
Secretary:	Gladys Kelsey
Program Convenors:	Ingrid Boesel Ellen Karpinski
Equipment Convenor:	Mary Paddon
Librarian:	Cheryl Weibe
Newsletter Editor:	Rachel Ogis
Social Convenor:	Solange
Outreach Coordinator:	Sandra Hodgins

Thanks to all of the executive for this past year.

Upcoming Events

Jan 7 2012 Distaff Day, Tzouhalem Guild, Duncan

Feb 10, 11, 12 Dreamspin, Cowichan Lake Centre

Oct 6,7,8, Guild 40th Anniversary Exhibition & Sale

Please let us know of any other upcoming events and we will post them on the website.

Other Events

Guild members also participated in a variety of events to demonstrate their craft. Events included Heritage Days at Ruckle Park and the Farmers institute and the Fall Fair. These events provided an opportunity to share traditional skills of spinning and weaving with the public and to display new techniques as members explore different fibres and equipment.



Coming Events

This is our 40th Anniversary

2012 is a banner year as the guild members will be celebrating their 40th year on Salt Spring. Celebrations will culminate in a week long show and sale to celebrate this anniversary. During the week prior to Thanksgiving weekend, a show, similar to the successful 'Eye for Colour' event will be held at ArtSpring. Coordinator, Sandra Hodgins will lead teams of Guild members in the presentation of weaving and spinning including a historical review of 40 years of Guild craftsmanship; a show of fine arts and craft; and, the annual guild sale. Beginning in January, Guild members will pair with other island crafters to design complimentary projects in an exhibition reflecting weaving and spinning as part of island arts and crafts. If you are an island craftsperson and would like to participate in this project, we welcome you to find a Guild weaver or spinner as a partner and to join us in this celebration.

Throughout the year we will also be celebrating the lives and craft of some of our long standing Guild members. Watch this newsletter for reviews of their work and their stories about the progression of their work as they developed new techniques and styles.

Workshops and Study Groups

As part of the celebration of excellence, Guild members have divided into study groups to explore techniques and push the boundaries of their craft. Two groups have emerged as follows:

Novice Weavers – the guild will offer a novice workshop in the spring. This 6 week evening program will be open to the public and include basic information about project planning; selection of the appropriate materials; dressing the loom; and, weaving. A small fee, dependant on the number of participants will be charged for the workshop to offset costs and will include a Guild membership. Owning your own loom is not a pre-requisite for this workshop as Guild equipment will be available. Contact Person: Victoria Olchowecki 250-537-1528

Mentoring program – novice weavers will be offered one to one mentoring, either in their own home or in the home of the mentor. This activity is designed to ensure new weavers have the support they need to continue learning the craft.

Contact person: Victoria Olchowecki 250-537-1528

Experienced Weavers – groups of experienced weavers will be working together to push the boundaries of their craft; to learn from one another; and, to provide one another with support in developing their skills to the highest levels of excellence.

Contact person: Rosemary Wallbank 250-537-4398

Coming Events Continued...

Spinning – the spinning group continues to meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday night in an informal 2 hour session at the high school. New members are always welcome and spinning wheels can be made available for use as you learn this ancient craft. More experienced spinners will teach you how to set up your wheel and to spin and provide support and advice as you get hooked on spinning. Contact person: Cheryl Wiebe 250-537-2656

While the main focus of Guild programming is related to weaving and spinning, members also enjoy exploring other aspects of the fibre arts. Plans this year include:

Silk Scarf Painting with Bev Lillyman.

This is an opportunity to explore colour and other hidden artistic talent as members paint their own silk scarf in this day long workshop to be held in March. Time, cost and space for the event which will be held in March will be announced later. This event will be open to the public.

Dying Workshops

While there is currently no formal proposal for workshops in fibre dying, several members of the guild do offer their expertise in pursuing this aspect of fibre preparation. Recently, a small group of spinners met over two days to explore the process of using both acid and proceon dyes opening a whole new world of colour and possibility in the development of their craft. If you have an interest in this process, contact our members for further information.

Contact person: Cheryl Wiebe 250-537-2656

Watch this space for more activities related to the fibre arts.

Items for Sale

Yarn & Rovings:

Free: Pam Barry, a longtime resident of Salt Spring, has some New Zealand fleece she is giving away as well as some spinning equipment that she is selling. She has a Beulah Peacock spinning wheel, 2 woolwinders, a skein holder 1 pair of carders and several books. More information on the spinning wheel can be found at www.nzspinningwheels.info/peacock. If interested, please contact Pam at 250- 538-0949.

For Sale: Cotswold fleeces available March and September. Mohair rovings, machine-made Cotswold and mohair yarn (white), pin drafted Cotswold rovings (white or grey), white felt roughly 24"x48" mainly Cotswold. Windrush Farm windrush@telus.net 250 537-4669 Margaret Thomson

Looms & Accessories:

For Sale: 4 harness, 36" Leclerc Artisat Loom. It needs some TLC and a kind and loving home. She is asking for a small amount of money (\$25?). Contact person is Nanea Magnesin 250.752.7318.

The Guild has several looms and wheels for sale at reasonable cost. Contact Mary Paddon mepaddon@shaw.ca for information about these items.

Wheels & Accessories:

Wanted: Ashford (traditional) bobbins, lazy kate, niddy-noddy, and ball winder. Wendy Mitchell wendyncmitchell@shaw.ca or 250-474-4651

Wanted: I'm a member of the Victoria Handweavers and Spinners Guild and I'm having trouble finding a used wool carder. I live in Victoria, but would be willing to come to Salt Spring to pick up a reasonably priced carder in good working (or repairable with no specialized parts) condition carder for use with local fleeces. Thanks very much, Lindsay Hill 250-882-7094

For Sale: Two spinning wheels. A Louet S15 - with two extra spindles. The other is one handmade by my grandfather 70-80 years ago for my grandmother. The measurements at 37" high x 36" wide and 16.5" deep. It is in very good condition though I have never actually used it - everything is beautiful turned and joined. Many thanks, Heather Webb hwebb@telus.net 250-537-9578

Special Getaways

For Rent: Cedar Moon Bed & Breakfast offering stays in an eclectic artists home and studio. Spinning, weaving or knitting lessons given for \$120/day. Immerse yourself in wool and weave while you vacation on Salt Spring.... 250-537-2627 stay@cedar moonsaltspring.com



Program 2011/2012

Thursdays from 10:30 - Noon at ArtSpring

Designing Women will continue to be the theme of many of our programs in 2011. Weavers meet at Artspring and have tea a regular scheduled program. The first Thursday of the month is a business meeting, the one meeting a month is a show-ask-and-tell. Members have access to the equipment room and library at this time.

Tuesday Spinning

Spinners meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Highschool (unless otherwise indicated) from 7pm - 9pm.

Book Review

Colour is one of the most challenging of the decisions facing weavers. We generally know what we want to weave and what fibre we want to use. There are lots of books to give ideas for weave structure – and then we come to colour. And for weavers it is not just the individual colours but how they interact with each other within the grids that we usually work with.

There are two distinct aspects to this: basic colour theory and its application to weaving. Two books to assist with these problems are *The Art of Color* by Johannes Itten, and *Color and Fiber* by Patricia Lambert, Barbara Staepelaere and Mary Fry. The second book is in our guild library.

Itten (1888-1967) began his long career with colour in 1913. With Walter Gropius, he was at the core of the Bauhaus and worked with such renowned painters as Paul Klee. His book is based on his own research, his work as an expressionist painter, and ideas and insights from colleagues and students. Starting with the physics of colour he moves through subjects such as the twelve-hue colour circle and the seven colour contrasts. He has chapters on colour expression (colour's psychic and emotional values), colour impression (colour effects in nature), and composition. In addition to all kinds of examples and exercises in each area, he uses historic paintings to demonstrate particular theories and ideas.

What happens, for example, when you put a square of red on a white background, and the same colour on a black background? The answer is not necessarily intuitive – and this kind of knowledge can be put to great use when designing stripes in a fabric, for example. Yes, the book focuses on theory but leads from there to practical applications.

“Colour is never static.” So begins Chapter 6 of *Color and Fiber*, a book directed specifically to fibre artists. “Colour is relative and fluid, always changing its characteristics and its impact on the viewer; red is not simply red, and a particular red does not always have the same effect in every situation.” Insights like these are explored through photos of weaving, felting, dyed yarns, embroidery.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section presents essential terminology, ideas and definitions about light and colour. The second section describes how light, dye and pigment work with fibres. The final section presents practical applications for the information gained in the first two sections.

Together these two books present the basic knowledge – and so much more – that every fibre artist needs to succeed with colour.

Rosemary