



Centerbrook's Spectrum Gallery presents fiber art show, opening Jan. 23

What's happening: Spectrum Gallery show features fiber arts

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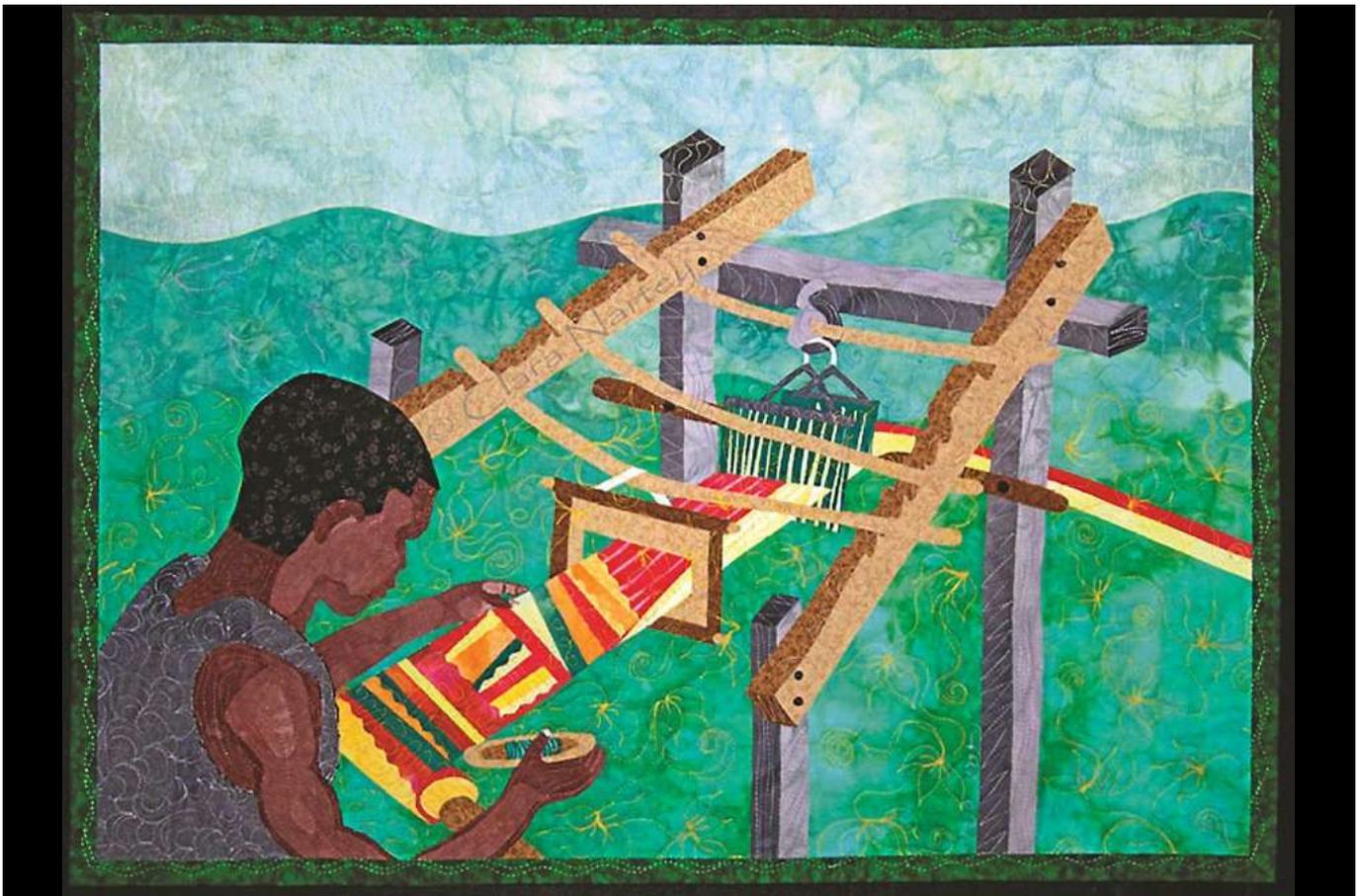


Photo: Journal Register Co.



IMAGE 1 OF 3

Contributed photos ["Beauty Looms Ahead" hand dyed cotton fabric by Clara Nartey](#)

CENTERBROOK >> [Spectrum Gallery and Store's](#) first exhibit of 2015 explores the rich and diverse world of fiber art.

Running from Jan. 23 through March 15, the show presents the work of artists from the tri-state area who use plant, animal or synthetic fibers to create fine art, decorative and functional home décor, and distinctive jewelry and accessories.

The seven-week exhibition, located at 61 Main Street, Centerbrook, Connecticut includes an opening reception on Jan. 23 from 6:30-9 p.m., to which the public is welcome, free of charge.

"The fiber arts are unique in that they not only result in often beautiful and compelling work, but also highlight the materials and labor intensity of the artists who create them," notes Barbara Nair, Artistic Director of Spectrum Gallery. "There is a long and rich history that includes weaving, knitting, quilting, felting and textiles to even more experimental and contemporary sculptural and conceptual work. There is something for everyone in this show both in the gallery and in the store....a great

way to begin the new year!"

Artists participating in the Gallery exhibit include Francie Bergquist, a painter, sculptor and fiber artist who presents a series of soft sculptures created from or adorned with fiber. Mixed media artist Ashby Carlisle combines vines, flax and clay, woven together using early textile techniques of plangi and tritik to create irregular vertical patterns on woven flax cloth. Diane Caswell Christian "paints" with felt, embroidery and embellishments to create both paintings as well as three-dimensional sculptures of landscapes, nature and still-life key subject matter.

Wilma Cogliantry, a professional long arm machine quilter who has created innumerable custom quilts and visits vintage textile shows, markets and estate sales to find unique fabrics to make her one-of-a-kind works. Pam Erickson, who calls herself a Conceptual Crafter, creates assemblages and sculptures that employ a range of nontraditional mediums including animal and human hair, and clothing dryer lint to create her "lintsapes."

Also participating is Helene Kusnitz who combines wool, silk, cotton, metal and other materials via stitching, felting or weaving. She uses fiber due to its tactile sensations, and explores various textures and colors as a starting point and gleans inspiration from her photography work and patterns and color combinations found in nature. Lines and marks are added by hand or by machine stitching to give more texture and movement. Artist Laura Lyons who raises sheep on her farm in Connecticut which after shorn, provide the wool that she washes, picks, cards, dyes and spins. In A Show of Hands, Lyons presents her interpretation of master works in wool by Klimt, Gauguin and Vermeer, as well as a selection of fine crafted felted wool animals.

Internationally-recognized and award-winning sculptor and tapestry maker Juliet Martin, whose work brings together the sensuality of painting and printmaking with the textural explicitness of weaving and ceramics, is presenting fabric wall hangings and distinctive mixed-media jewelry. She practices SAORI weaving, a Japanese form of textile design that is dedicated to free expression and self-development. **Textile artist Clara Nartey designs vibrantly-colored figurative and abstract scenes from hand-dyed cotton fabrics. She is intrigued by intense color and celebrates the interplay between lines and shapes, working both with planned intention as well as spontaneous exploration.**

Photographer Jason Neely presents a series of works depicting Peru's rich tradition of weaving and knitting in the communities of Chinchero and Taquile Island in Lake Titicaca. Chinchero, a small community near the Urubamba River valley, home to a weaving cooperative that practices traditional methods of dyeing and weaving textiles. On Taquile, an isolated and traditional society where knitting is done by men and women exclusively make yarn and weave, Taquileños are renowned for their handwoven textiles. Also participating is photographer Sally Perreten, who presents a piece that colorfully portrays the process of creating yarn from animal, to cotton to finished product.

Mixed media artist Victoria Sivigny produces dynamic abstract work incorporating linear gesture, mark-making, unique textures and layering which create the illusion of energy, movement and compressed space. She presents abstract 3-D wall sculptures created with paper, fabric, acrylic paint, metallic thread and Korean hanji, a textile made from the Korean mulberry tree that is softened and strengthened through joomchi, a process in which paper is alternately wetted and agitated by hand to breakdown and enhance the fibers. Artist Catherine Whall Smith, who calls herself a "quilter" as hand stitching is integral to her work, designs through a process of discovering relationships among patterns, colors, and a limited variety of shapes defined by simple lines.

Fabric, collage artist and potter Jean Swanson is inspired by texture, and particularly by the unique fingerprint-like patterns and brown and gray hues of tree bark. She replicates this with paper and fabrics such as painted cheesecloth and muslin. Born and raised in San Francisco, Swanson moved to Connecticut in 1998 and in addition to fabric, is a book binder and collage artist. Painter and fabric artist Mollie Thonneson creates pieces that explore the frivolous excess exemplified by fashion industry haute couture whose often un-wearable clothes are more pomp than practical. Her labor intense process of re-creating useful items such as aprons, diapers, and sleeping bags, then rendered non-functional with holes and inappropriate fabrics, helps fill an internal void that offers the healing power of art rather than social criticism. Fabric artist Kristen Walsh is an award-winning knitter, wool spinner and felter who creates whimsical representational three-dimensional works. In A Show of Hands, she presents a large felted tree with children climbing, hanging, swinging and other playful, colorful pieces.

Fabric artisans showing knitwear, accessories and decorative home décor in the Store at Spectrum Gallery include Diane Ceneri, Nancy Frodermann, Lois Matson, Christine Rook, Laura Lyons, Francie Bergquist, Kristen Walsh and Juliet Martin.

Spectrum Gallery and Store is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The gallery is an expansion of the non-profit arts organization Arts Center Killingworth. In addition to offering classes, workshops, camps and presenting performing arts events, the Arts Center's mission is to provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to develop, display and sell their work. For more information about A Show of Hands call (860) 767-0742 and visit www.spectrumartgallery.org.

To learn more about the Arts Center Killingworth call (860) 663-5593 and visit www.artscenterkillingworth.org.

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