

Fiber Art Almanac

Annual Collection 2012

Volume 2

WILDWOOD | PRESS
FIBER ART PUBLICATION

telling the story of how it came to be



Jenny Wilder lives in the Twin Cities with her family. She loves knitting, going on road trips and learning new ways to create fiber art. Her cats and dog get along just fine until someone wants to play chase. Eh, Meka?

Fiber Art Almanac 2012©

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Front cover tapestry by Lila Nelson

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Weaving by Louise French

Welcome to the Almanac!

Hello again!

I started off the year very interested in exploring the continuum between what is considered craft and what is considered art; the increasing trend of Americans who claim the lifestyle of producing functional and artistic pieces and who are able to create a life for themselves as they pursue their passion and their desire to share it with



others. As I entered into the year and began listening to what these individuals were saying and doing, a slightly different story became apparent. How do we take what we know and make it into something completely our own?

I would venture that it begins with where we find meaning. Many stories from the fiber artists in this publication contain a strong legacy of purpose driven craft; handed down by a grandmother, mother or aunt; someone who took the time to show and teach or lead by example. Sometimes it comes from

an interest in capturing part of one's heritage as with Clones lace and Cornelia Griffin's Irish ancestry or knitting keepsake pieces as a way of remembering what matters a great deal to Shelley Monitor.

Anita Jain also found meaning by creating a visual art piece, Bloom. This fiber sculpture visually describes her understanding of bi-polar disorder and how she worked through a family member's illness. Polly Hart artistically needlefelts fiber to create a detailed mural of her entire town.

The method of expression takes many forms; but I think meaning begins with connecting, continuing and creating something that transforms one person's experience into something that is understood by many.

So, this book of knitting, quilting and weaving is also a book of meaning. In it are tales and pictures of what is important to these individuals—it is their stories of creating a bigger world using fiber as their expression of art.

Think of this book as a journal, record keeper, time organizer, coaster, whatever. Live in each day--it's your day!

Best to you,
Jenny Wilder

Publisher
p.s. there are six original knitting patterns in here, too!

Debra Gangelhoff

Fiber Artist
Pin cushions and pillows



Superior spring scarf

Pattern designed and knit
by Jenny Wilder



Patterns in the *Almanac*

This year the *Almanac* contains six knitting patterns. They are fairly simple but I think they will interest knitters with all levels of expertise.

The stitch patterns include some lace, interesting styles of fringe and finishing and there is one pattern that just begs for funky creativity. It's a knitted gift idea that is very easy and a whole bunch can be cranked out in one afternoon! It's called Bookworms.

This scarf was finally completed while I was up in Grand Marais. It was named Superior Spring for the fabled cold, deep lake because when I was there the buds on the trees were still in their pretty green barely sprouted stage and it was cold enough to need a thick and wooly scarf. That was mid-May (hello, Minnesota)!

The yarn is a thick and thin bulky weight that moves from thick single ply to thin spun sport weight. It is soft and it will felt itself easily. The button is crescent shaped so it pokes through the fabric without needing a button hole or toggle. (Besides I don't like making buttonholes). The ribbon is hand dyed silk and cost more than the yarn. Button and ribbon from Treadle Yardgoods in St. Paul, MN. The yarn is Loops and Threads Horizon Tweed. Photo taken during a Rosemaling class at North House Folk School In Grand Marais.

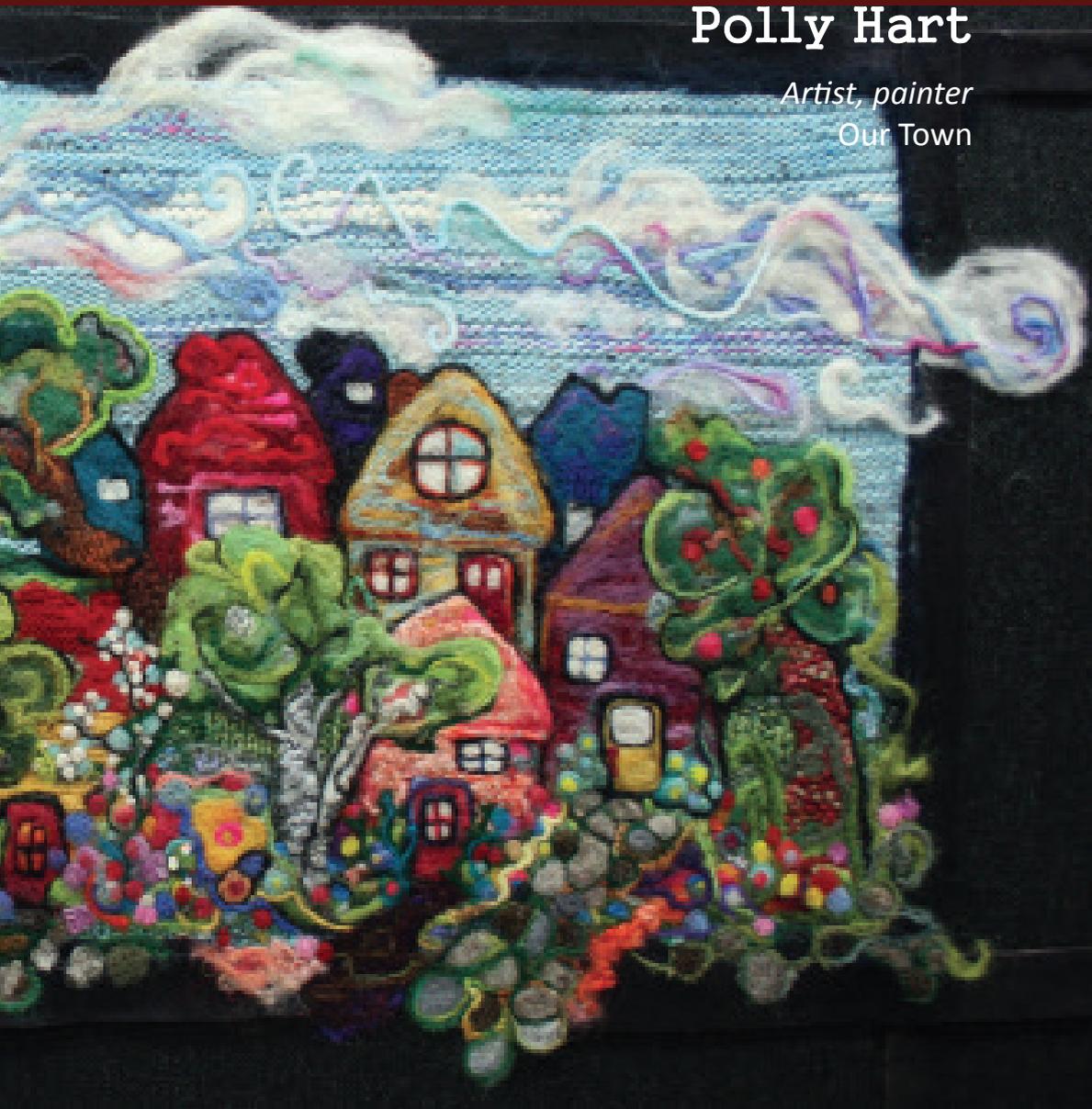


A knitted blue sky with swirling felted clouds—*Our Town* is a happy place. As the featured artist for a new community event, Art in Triangle Park, Polly created her magical version of small town Mahtomedi, MN where Polly and her sister Kirsten have their yarn and gift shop, Lila and Claudine's. The town and the shop are magical (general opinion of those who have been to both places).

The details of *Our Town* show individual activities taking place such as the community art event under colorful awnings, the farmer's market, an artist painting a picture of a sailboat, shoppers and train rides and boats sailing across White Bear Lake.

Polly Hart

Artist, painter
Our Town



Polly knit a blue background using hand dyed wool and constructed the town by knitting trees, houses, needle felting awnings, people and leafy green summer foliage, cobblestone streets and flowering bushes. Once the main buildings were knit, she wet felted them and kept layering texture to create the exceptional detail and perspective.

One of her main concerns was how to fashion a backdrop that would hold the completed piece. What she constructed is plywood covered with suiting fabric then trimmed with velveteen ribbon. Polly and Kirsten are committed to building strong community relationships in the Mahtomedi area. Art in Triangle Park is held the last weekend of September in conjunction with Zephyr Days. All are welcome!



Carolina Warner

Fiber Artist

Stormy night

When asked for words to describe her work, Carolina said explorative, improvisational, color and detailed. Stormy Night was a piece of fabric that she couldn't cut up. First the cloth was painted with dye.

She wrapped it on a plumbing pipe and scrunched the fabric and then put it in a pot of black dye. Almost there...she then decided to remove some color. Rewrapping the cloth on a pole and scrunching it, she used Thiox which created some lighter lines. Liking the depth in the piece, the richness and dynamic, Carolina quilted along some of the lines with a neutral thread. She wanted the cloth to speak for itself. I think it speaks its name very well: stormy night. Carolina lives and creates fiber art in Brainerd, MN.

Kathie Simon Frank

Fiber Artist
Walk in the Woods



I think the best question for Kathie is, "how do you know so much?" When I talk with her I get the impression she is able to bring the conversation to my view, opening more doors as I gain understanding. She is a teacher.

Kathie's love of creating art using fiber comes from her childhood. Her mother owned an industrial loom and wove her own designs and pieces. Encouraged by her mother; Kathie has always made learning new art forms a priority. Interested in three dimensional objects, Kathie spent many years at the potter's wheel and eventually picking up her mother's passion for weaving; Kathie began to study fiber art. She fondly remembers the three dimensional animals she sewed for her children.

This art quilt, completely designed, pieced and quilted by Kathie uses the drunkard's path pattern to visualize a meandering walk in the woods. This is a companion piece to Song in the Wild Woods featured in August.

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April

April							May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		



Mon
23

Tues
24

Wed
25

Thurs
26

Fri
27

Sat/Sun
28/29





Jennifer Williams

Knitter

Silver anniversary scarf

Vogue's Silver Anniversary Scarf designed by Nicky Epstein and knit by Jennifer Williams. Lustrous silk, beads and crystals nestled into the flower blossoms. Jennifer made it her own by adding in 10 flowers and changing the stitch pattern along the trim.



Anita Jain

Fiber Artist
Bloom



When a family member is diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder it affects everyone. The initial shock, the realization of the long term ramifications, the unpredictability, the euphoria, the suicidal and dark dark moods, the 'pins and needles' and the anxiety, it all felt unreal.

To helplessly watch on when a love one loses a career, an income, insurance, the friends when most needed, was almost more than I could bear. The illness became my illness, too, as surely as if I had been diagnosed with it myself. Depressed and powerless I watched the life, as I knew it disappear. What was left was the pervasive stigma still attached to mental illness.

When I finally came to realize that as devastating as it was to everyone to have a family member be diagnosed with an incurable, it not fatal illness, the illness was not mine and that I did not lose my loved one, the intelligence, creativity and wit that I so loved, were still there, I began to recover. I learned everything I could about the illness, I learned to live in the moment and I began to find without even looking, beauty, magic and blessings in everyday. I felt myself rising slowly, raw and still hurting, and a little out of alignment, as on the transforming wings of a butterfly above the amazing garden of life appreciating anew its endless variety of colors from black to white and feelings from devastation to bliss.

I learned never to give up.

--Anita Jain

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What's going on in the fiber art community? Become more connected; 80 inspiring fiber art pieces that will get your thoughts humming! Weekly artisan features that tell the story of a different fiber art piece; some to knit, one-of-a-kind **weaving, felting, beadwork and art quilts** and more.

What will you be working on this year? **Six new patterns to knit**—projects that range in size from a 78 inch lace wrap to a very small project you can carry along in your bag, knit on the bus or finish off at the game.

What is your form of creative expression? **Journal, take notes, make a plan.**

Love what you do!

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PRESS

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