

Random Threads



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Prince George Fibre Arts Guild
2880 - 15th Ave., Prince George, B.C. V2M 1T1

February 2024
Volume 435

Monthly Gathering

Second Tuesday
at 7:00 pm.

Show & Tell

Join us for

Zoom Meetings

Tuesdays

6:00 to 9:00pm

Thursdays

1:00 to 4:00pm

Sundays

11:30am to

3:30pm

Our Fibre Arts Guild
hosted
the 2019
Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds Conference

President's Corner

Welcome to February—the shortest month of the year!

With good reason, usually. That said, the guild continues to explore options for members and this month we add a few more learning opportunities.

Our guild volunteers are doing a great job, but always interested in what members want, so do contact someone if you have a particular class you'd like to take. Or teach.

In the meantime, we have survived one cold snap and hopefully we will soon see spring blossoms.

Weaving with Upcycled Materials



Rag woven for garments



Rag woven using Triloft fabric



Rag woven sample



Rag woven cloth with drape

Dates: May 10, 11 and 12, 2024

Time: (Friday 7-9 pm, Saturday 9 am - 4 pm, Sunday 1-4 pm)

Place: Jack Bryan Room at Studio 2880, 2880 – 15th Avenue.

Fee: \$300 members or \$350 non-members plus GST

Material Fee: \$20 paid to the instructor. **Maximum number of students will be 12, so register early to ensure a spot.**

Weavers are great recyclers, and this workshop will look at various ways to create new textiles from 'old' materials.

Experience level - Beginner Plus. Weavers should know how to dress their loom. (If you need help, guild members will be able to assist.) The guild has a number of table looms available to rent for this workshop.

Cheryl Peebles is an artist, working creatively for 40 years. She is curious, always wanting to know more, taking every opportunity to learn. Eventually she took the Olds Master Weaver Certificate, achieving the level of Master Weaver in 2022 with an in-depth study in Rag Weaving for Garments. Whether you are experienced or a novice, Cheryl will guide you through using materials in new ways.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (on-line at <https://pgfibrearts.ca/workshops>). Deposit of \$50 required by the March 27th, 2024, balance at the workshop. For more information, please contact Laura at laurafry@telus.net.

Cheryl also owns a shop for weavers and spinners and will have a pop-up shop - hours to be announced. *Out of town weavers, there are a number of motels/restaurants within 5 minutes drive of the Studio 2880 buildings.*



Bobbin Lace

Bobbin Lace has been around for a while. From what I can gather, it originated in Italy, then spread throughout Europe, changing and developing as different people changed it to meet their needs. It would appear it began in the 1400s although it may have been around longer than that, but it really took off in the 1500s, as dozens of portraits of people—from Queen Elizabeth I! And many high status people are shown wearing those gigantic lace ‘collars’ that were all the rage. Yards and yards of lace, starched and pinned into fancy ‘concoctions’, worn with pride. Apparently these collars were pinned into those huge collars, and the pin making industry benefitted from the fashion as hundreds of straight pins were required to wear the collars. Not to mention pin out the lace while it was made.

Because bobbin lace is essentially weaving by building your ‘loom’ as you make the lace, converting warps into wefts, weaving plain weave in some areas (called whole or cloth stitch), but also tying knots, braiding, twisting yarns around each other and the pins, and just generally making ‘holes’ in the cloth.

Lace was worn by both men and women, and frequently lace designs for men included hunting scenes and such, while women’s designs featured flowers, birds, and other more ‘feminine’ motifs.

Young women were most commonly lace makers. Small hands and keen eyesight were useful and lace was most frequently made from linen, in part because linen would hold the 3D shapes of the collars better than cotton.

Now bobbin lace includes most yarns that are available—cotton is fairly inexpensive, but also lace, silk, wool, spiced up with mylar or other specialty yarns.

Torchon is the ‘easiest’ form of lace, and most people begin by learning how to make that. Lace can be made in long lengths of trim, useful for decorating garments and such, or motifs that might be applied to a garment. Some folk dress features lace hats or caps, and trim for shirt sleeves or necks.

Traditionally made in white or natural linen, lace makers began exploring colour in lace in the 1980s and now lace makers freely choose colours to make small decorative pieces or match the trim to their garments.

There are a variety of pillow shapes, some more suitable for some things than other—cookie pillows generally are used to make things like doilies but can be used for smaller items like bookmarks. Some pillows come with blocks that move so that longer lengths of trim can be made, or square lace trim to fit a square handkerchief or frame. Roller pillows work ‘best’ for long lengths of trim. Pillows can be ‘fancy’ or basic, and some are fairly simple to make, like bolster type pillows (a kind of ‘roller’ pillow).

There are many different styles of bobbins, too, and some lace makers enjoy collecting special bobbins—for example I have a set of provincial flowers painted by a lace maker in the UK. She also made special birthday bobbins for me. Some have ‘spangles’, some do not. Like so many things about textiles...it depends!

If you are interested in learning more, the ‘taster’ sessions will introduce the basics and hopefully if there are enough interested people, we could have a ‘support’ group.

Torchon Lace ‘taster’ with Laura Fry, February 17th or February 24th from 1:00—4:00pm (masks required). Pillow and bobbins for the tutorial will be supplied, and ‘kits’ with pillow, bobbin and one lace book will be for sale for anyone interested in continuing. Cost: \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members plus GST. NOTE: Only one student per class so sign up now at [workshops!](#)

There are times when interesting things can be found on the internet.

- This one is about making rope in the Nomadic Lifestyle of Iran: [weaving a yarn rope](#)
- Ann and Simon Cooper let us inside their Cotswolds smallholding to share the forgotten craft of flax weavers [Flaxlands](#)
- Some BC history of interest to spinners and weavers: [Salish Wool Dogs](#)
- Carol James works in sprang. There are some similarities to lace and I wonder if someone figured out how to make bobbin lace by building on the crossing threads of sprang. We’ll never know, of course, but this website has some really interesting photos about sprang: <https://www.spranglady.com>

Weaving Resources:

The guild has a large library of books, magazines, and equipment that can be rented. If you are looking for something in particular, consult the Textile Index, which indexes magazines from early years until the 1980s. The index has listings by topic and author.

We have one loom that is set up for people to give weaving on a floor loom a try. Floor looms can be rented for use in the guild room, and table looms can be rented and taken home.

We have several warping boards and a warping mill; bobbin winders, shuttles, and some yarn for purchase by donation. And people who can help if you run into a problem.

Upcoming Workshops and Classes

Check [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more information, some classes require pre-registration.

February 7th ~ Knitting an Intarsia Baby Facecloth led by Elizabeth S. ~ limit 6 participants

February 10th ~ Needle Felting Hearts with embossing led by Ulyana ~ class size not limited

February 17th or February 24th ~ Introduction to Torchon Bobbin Lace led by Laura ~ only one student per class, masks required

February 28th ~ Steeking led by Elizabeth S. ~ limit 6 participants

March 6th ~ Knitting a Fair Isle Headband led by Elizabeth S. ~ limit 6 participants

March 16th ~ Inkle weaving led by Margaret. Class size will be limited to the number of looms, 10.

March 20th ~ Learning how to use a Drop Spindle led by Belinda ~ details to be confirmed

TBA ~ Double Knitting Tutorial led by Elizabeth S. ~ limit 6 participants

Dowry Flax Study Group during the regular drop-in time on Sundays. Members can purchase 100 grams of this fibre from Margaret for \$10.00. Contact Margaret at margaret.tayti@gmail.com for more information.

May 10th to 12th ~ Weaving with Upcycled Materials

'Back to the Basics' Movie Night ~ February 26th 7:00pm in Guild Room

Knitting with Ombré and Gradient Yarns (59 minutes)

Knitting with Ombré and Gradient Yarns: Tips and Tricks for the Best Results with Tina Whitmore. Master knitting with ombré and gradient yarns. Ombré and Gradient yarns are irresistible when you're at the wool festival or your local yarn shop, but what can you make with that beautiful skein once it's in your stash? Tina Whitmore, knitwear designer and owner of Freia Fine Handpainted Yarns, shares her expert advice on how to choose the best yarn for your project. Tina will guide you through why it's important to consider color placement and dominance, how to extend your gradient, and much more. Plus, Tina will guide you step-by-step through knitting the Trigonometry Shawlette pattern.

What you will learn about knitting with ombré yarns:

- What to choose and why (long gradient, etc.)
- How production affects product
- Dyeing a knitted panel
- Color placement and dominance
- Considering your stitches (extending your gradient, how to match color when attaching a second ball of yarn)

Plus, knit the Trigonometry Shawlette pattern!



Sheep Facts:

Sheep have rectangular pupils allow for a wide field of vision, around 270 to 320 degrees. This means that sheep can see almost everything around them, except for what's directly behind them, without turning their heads! As prey species, this helps sheep stay aware of their surroundings and watch for predators, even when their head is down grazing.

Sheep have no top front teeth but the roof of their mouth is hard. This permits sheep to eat vegetation close to the ground and prevents them from pulling up plant roots.

In Canada, sheep production is a relatively small industry compared to that of cattle or chicken with just over one million sheep and lambs raised across the country annually. There are over 8,000 sheep farms across Canada. The most popular breeds in Canada are the Suffolk, Dorset and Rideau Arcott.

Buy & Sell

Looking for fibre equipment, check out [Buy & Sell](#). If you have items you would like to list online please contact Birthe at info@pgfibreats.ca with description, price, contact information and photo if possible.

'Back to Basics' Guild Meetings and Events 2023/24

The main focus of 'Back to the Basics' this year will be starting at the beginning. Check our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates.

Upcoming Workshops and Classes

- Dowry Flax Study Group ~ Sunday Drop Ins
- Knitting an Intarsia Baby Facecloth ~ February 7th
- Needle Felting Hearts with Embossing ~ February 10th
- Torchon Lace 'Taster' ~ Saturdays, February 17th or 24th
- Steeking ~ February 28th
- Knitting a Fair Isle Headband ~ March 6th
- Inkle Weaving ~ March 16th
- Learning how to use a Drop Spindle ~ March 20th
- Double Knitting Tutorial ~ TBA
- Weaving with Upcycled Materials ~ Friday, May 10th ~ Sunday, May 12th
- Dryer Balls: second Thursday of each month during Drop In

Upcoming Events

- BC Northern Exhibition ~ August 15th ~ 18th
- Great Northwest Fibre Fest ~ Sunday, September 8th
- Studio Fair ~ TBA, November
- Guild Sale ~ Saturdays and Sundays in December

Upcoming 2023/24 Guild Meetings

Show & Tell the 2nd Tuesday of each month. No meetings held in July and August.

Guild Business Meetings are held quarterly on the 2nd Wednesday of March, June, September and December.

'Back to Basics' Movie Nights

The last Tuesday Drop-In of each month. Learn from the Masters. Workshop videos will be shown on carding, spinning, plying, design, natural dyeing, felting, wheel mechanics and much more so join us for an informative evening. Upcoming videos will be listed in the newsletter.

Check out our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for more details.



The Thirteenth Annual FIBRES WEST

Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th.
Cloverdale Agriplex, 17763 62 Ave, Surrey, BC.

Interested in spinning, weaving, felting, knitting, rug hooking, lace making, dyeing, tapestry, basket weaving and other related fibre crafts? Come and check us out.

We promote local, Canadian fibre producers, fibre

shops, independent artists, equipment producers, non-profit groups and weaving and spinning guilds. We hire Canadian teachers and we invite vendors from BC, Alberta, Washington and beyond us.

For more information see www.fibreswest.com

Support the Canadian fibre industry!

Fibre Arts Sources

Please visit and support our friends for your fibre, yarn, patterns, kits, dyes, equipment and so much more.

Check out the many BC vendors, something special for everyone. fibre-arts-source

Learn to Spin, Knit, Crochet and Finish your Project Drop-In

Drop-Ins for Guild Members and the public.

Tuesdays 6:00 ~ 9:00pm

Zoom Meetings for Guild Members Only.

Thursdays 1:00 ~ 4:00pm

Zoom Meetings for Guild Members Only.

Thursdays 6:00 ~ 9:00pm

Guild Members and the public.

Sundays 11:30am ~ 3:30pm

Zoom Meetings for Guild Members Only.

Surface Design Association
BC + Yukon
presents
**CURRENT
THREADS 2024**
March 15 to May 5
Pat Martin Bates Gallery
Victoria Arts Council
1800 Store Street, Victoria, BC
Wed to Sun noon to 5 pm
Reception March 23 3 pm to 5 pm

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