

Fall 2018

Docent Tours

About Crooked Tree Arts Center

- Founded in 1971
- Crooked Tree Arts Center - Petoskey features art galleries, a theater, dance studio, classrooms, and a culinary arts kitchen
- We offer classes, art exhibitions, performances, and events
- We aim to build and enrich our community by providing high quality cultural experiences for the residents of Northern Michigan and to support and encourage area artists

Visual Arts at Crooked Tree

Galleries

- Bonfield Gallery
- Gilbert Gallery
- Atrium Gallery
- Sales Gallery
- *Cornwell & Carnegie Galleries in Traverse City

Temporary Exhibits

- We exhibit artwork by local, regional, national, and international artists
- Shows may be juried, curated and/or invitational; may be touring or developed by CTAC
- Run varying lengths of time

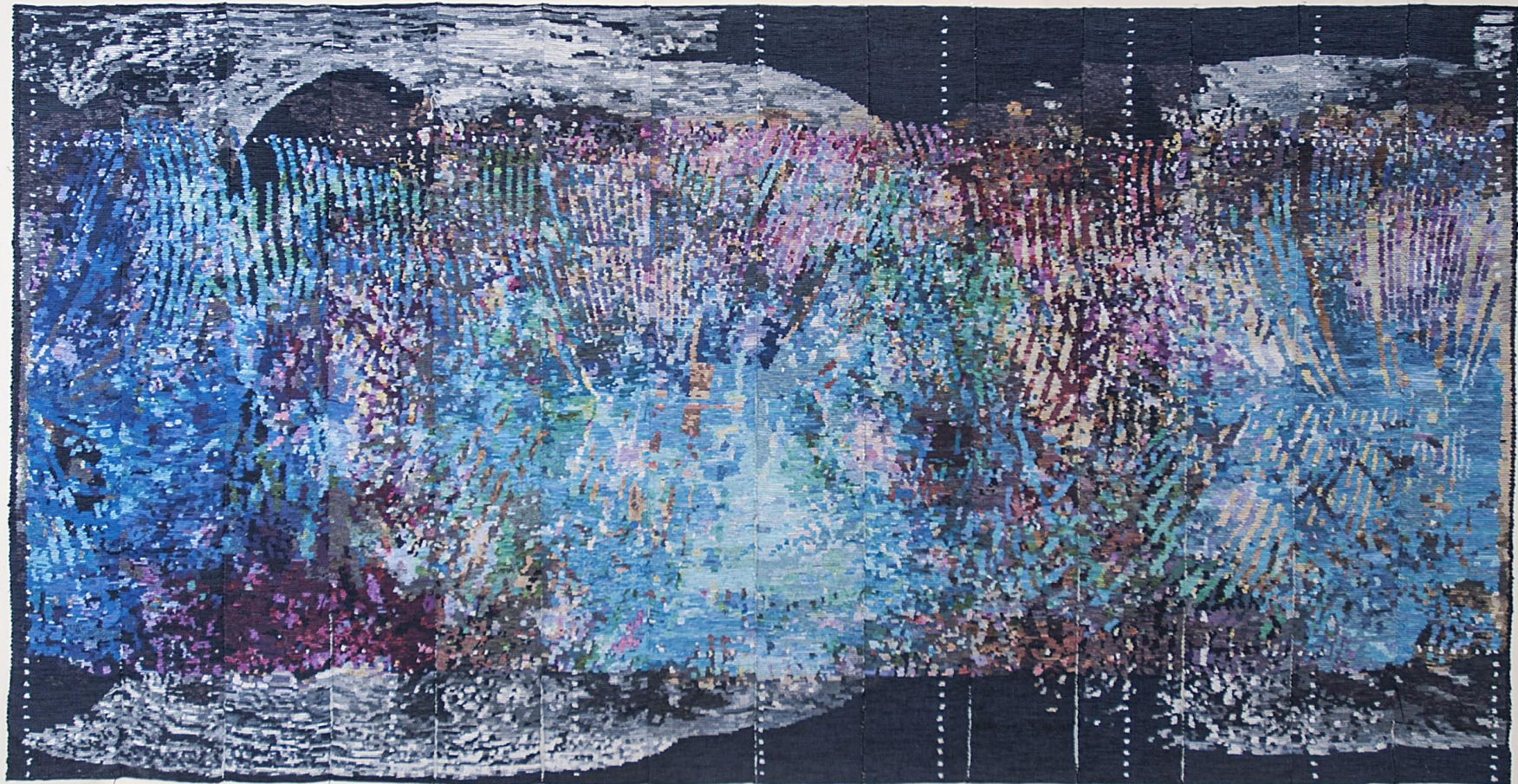
Woven Together Exhibitions

Two Exhibits

- Woven Together: The Fiber Work of Sherri Smith
- Woven Together: The Influence of Sherri Smith

About Sherri Smith





ABOUT SHERRI SMITH

- Sherri Smith is a pioneer in the field of fiber arts
- Sherri Smith came to prominence after being included in the 1969 groundbreaking exhibition, Wall Hangings at the MoMA, NYC.
- She founded the fibers program at the University of Michigan
- Recently retired from her position at U of M (40 yr tenure)

ABOUT SHERRI SMITH

- MFA, Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1967
- BA, Stanford University, 1965
- Career in textile design for Boris Kroll Fabrics
- Faculty at Colorado State University before taking the position at the University of Michigan

FORM & PROCESS

- “ASTRONOMY” Series, taken from NASA images
- Original photographs/images, blown up to scale, but elongated
- Tears to strips and follows the design
- Weaves from the back, loosely stitches finished strips together



FORM & PROCESS

- Source fabric is already dyed; some have patterns
- Color is a response to original images, but sometimes exaggerated or varied
- Mounted to wall with velcro strips

Woven Together: The Influence of Sherri Smith

Features work by 14 former students

- All 14 artists studied under Sherri Smith at the University of Michigan
- Exhibition was curated by former galleries director, Sheila Ruen, who also studied under Sherri Smith
- All artists studied fibers, BFA or MFA, but current work may or may not directly relate to fibers and textiles

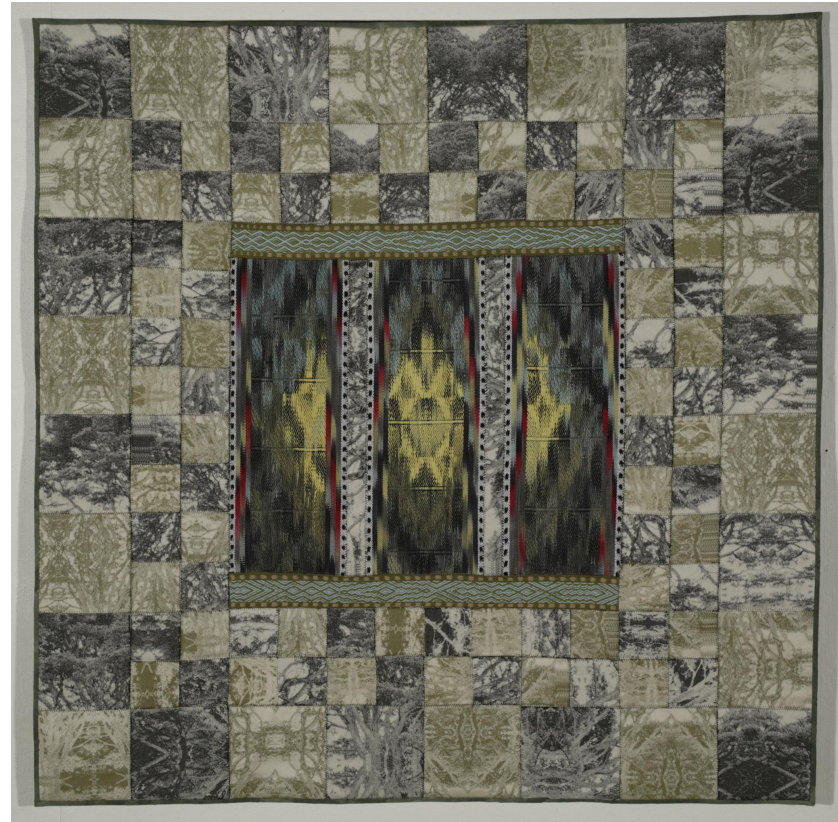
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David Brackett

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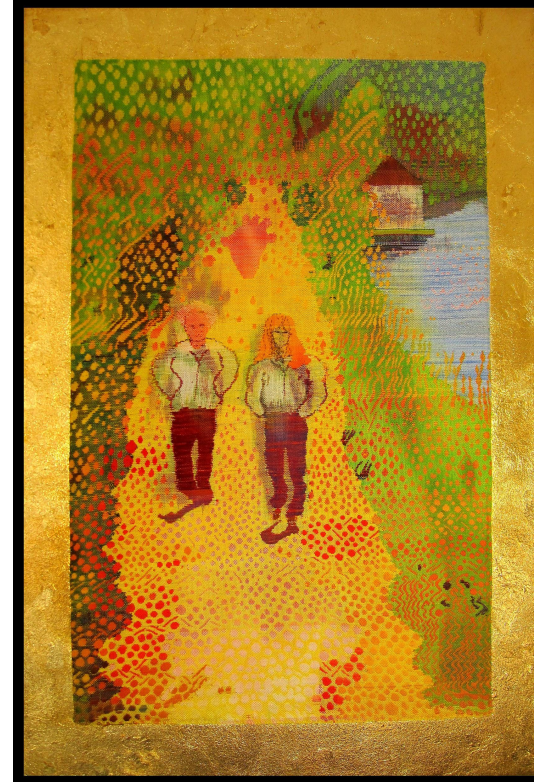
- 1990 MFA, University of Kansas
- 1979-1985 University of Michigan - studied zoology before turning to fiber arts
- Associate Professor of Visual Arts, University of Kansas
- Interested in balancing the universe's natural tendency towards disorder and chaos with the human desire for order, pattern, unity, and understanding



Deborah Carlson

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- Carlson's work "lives in connectivity with all of those who weave, those who have ever woven, in every time and culture, finding here a community of spirit. Weaving creates a unique locus which is transcendent of time and space. In this shared meditative practice, for me, a narrative evolves."
- BFA University of Michigan, MFA Cranbrook Academy of Art
- Professor in Fiber Art at the Cleveland Institute of Art and in the Artisanry Department at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.
- Currently she volunteers for Embracing the World in Kerala, India



Linda Duvall

- “The project *The Toss* addresses thorny issues concerning women, power and violence. I was involved in a police takedown, in which I was flipped off my feet and landed flat on the ground. In *The Toss*, I revisited this event, but shifted both the context and the final outcome. I hired trainers to teach me how to perform tosses. Then I re-enacted meetings in various locations of potential personal vulnerability. In each of these new meetings I was the one doing the tossing.”
- Saskatoon-based artist whose work “exists at the intersection of collaboration, performance, and conversation”



Marianne Fairbanks

- Assistant professor of Design Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Work is focused on intersection of weaving, mathematics, and technology
- Does a lot with her textile work:
Pays homage to tradition; works collaboratively to invent new textile technologies; builds community through social practice

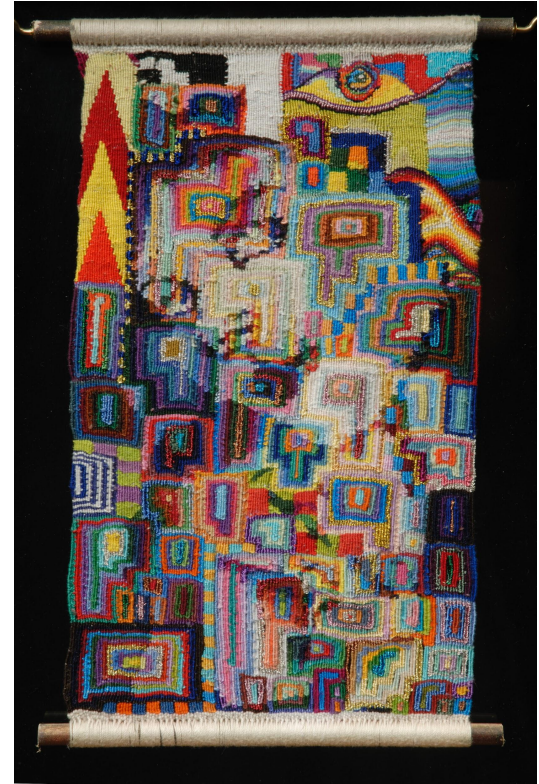


Geary Jones

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- Has been a fiber artist for nearly 40 years.
- His work has been shown in 15 countries in over 300 exhibitions.
- Former winner of a Pollock/Krasner Grant for sculpture, and have had my work written about, or shown in periodicals, and newspapers throughout the U.S.

Note detail of work - interesting viewed front and back.



Mary Anne Jordan

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- BFA, University of Michigan
MFA, Cranbrook Academy of Art
- Describes self as “quiltmaker”
- Current work strives to challenge and embrace the strong traditions of quiltmaking, sewing, and contemporary art.
- Current Professor in textiles/fibers at University of Kansas



Janice Lessman-Moss

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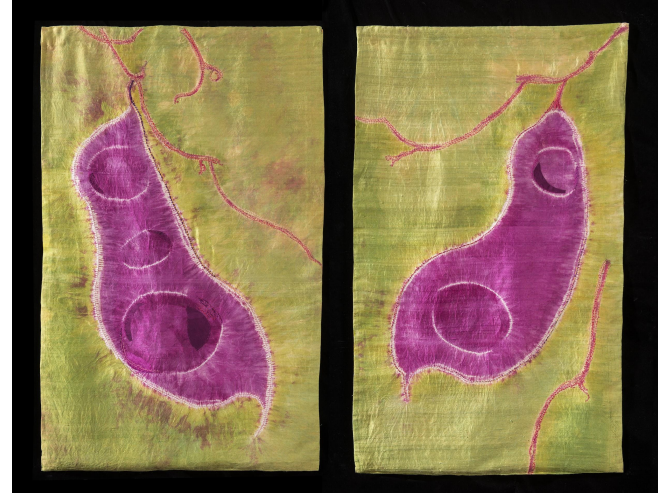
- MFA, 1981, University of Michigan
- BFA, 1979, Tyler School of Art (Temple University)
- Head of textile program at Kent State
- Inspired by the “Random Walk”, a concept based in mathematical theory that reflects models of growth in nature, Lessman-Moss uses the circle within the square as a basic template for mapping an accumulation of motifs of different scale and clarity. Through a dense field of patterns she intends to capture the essence of competing dynamics in our own world; of circular and linear time, of the finite and infinite; a complex dialogue rooted in an underlying order.



Sue Moran

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Susan Moran is a textile artist whose works incorporate shibori, silkscreen, and stitching to create work inspired by the natural world and common human experiences. She has been a faculty member of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit since 1986.



Robin Muller

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- BFA 1976, VCU
- MFA 1978, University of Michigan
- Mostly a “handweaver” but also weaves with powered looms
- Recent work uses photographs of Architectural details taken by the artist And her husband. The weavings draw turn the bulky, strong stones into soft shimmering images, drawing attention to the patterns



Kate Pocrass

- Kate Pocrass is an artist, illustrator and surface designer working from her studio in Berkeley, CA.
- She received her BFA from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and her MFA from the California College of the Arts.
- “One Day could happen anywhere: the mornings commute, wandering abroad or on a trip to the corner store. There are pivotal moments in our lives that the mind keeps track of. As time passes, the catalog of these moments morphs. The minutia is distilled and we grasp one particular aspect of that memory. We emerge on the other side at Day One. Then we decide what to do next, with a clearer mind.”



Marianetta Porter

- Her work and research is grounded in the study of African American history, culture and representation.
- MFA, University of Michigan, 1983
- BFA, Hampton University, 1975
- Current professor, University of Michigan
- *“Iron Rust Press Down Deep* reflects on the unsung lives of domestic workers and their charges... *Iron Rust Press Down Deep* pays tribute to the resolve, commitment and fortitude of women’s love and labor.”

Denise Samuels

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- BFA and MFA from University of Michigan
- 29 years as an art teacher at Cranbrook Kingswood Upper and Middle Schools
- “The work I am now creating marks a return to my roots in fiber. They speak to the deep satisfaction I derive when shapes and forms fit together into a whole; as one collects bits of one’s life to create a satisfying narrative or “quilt”. These pieces are reflections on my life, with many ups and downs and a need for the comfort of repetition.”



Jenny Schu

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- BFA, University of Michigan, 2004
- Began hand quilting as a child, taught self to weave beads
- Recent work incorporates wordplay; inspired by personal experiences and designed to elicit different responses from viewers



Sheri Simons

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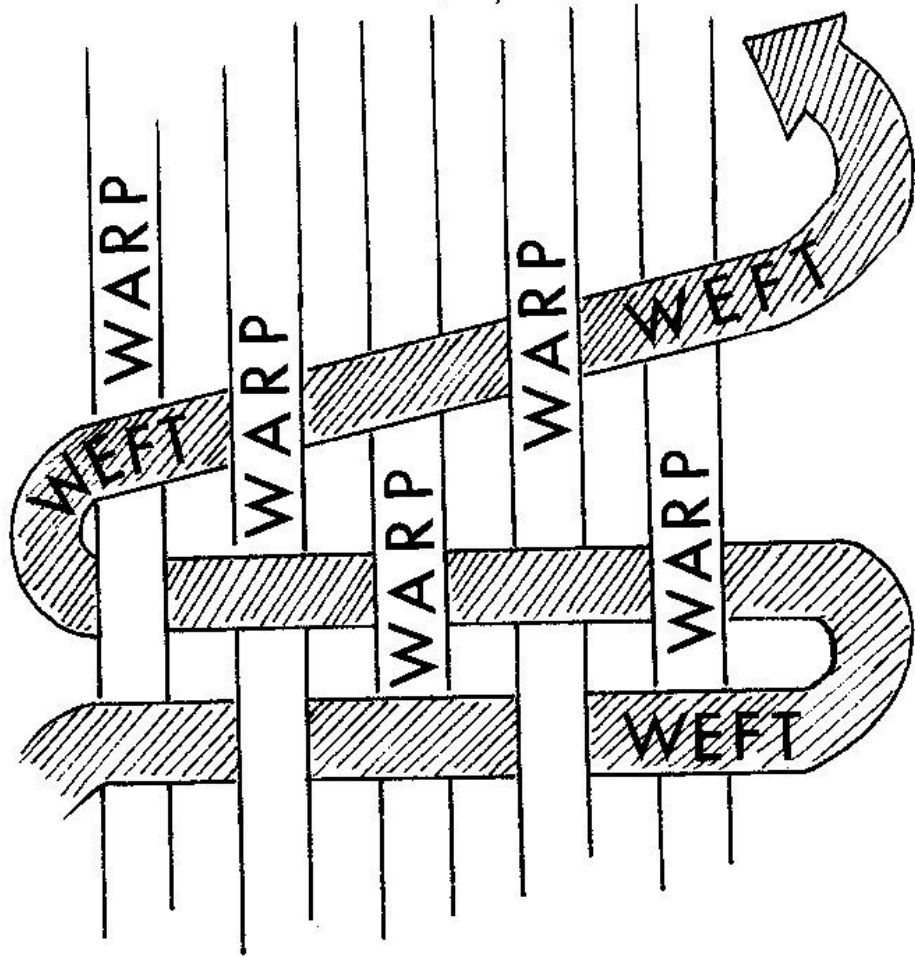
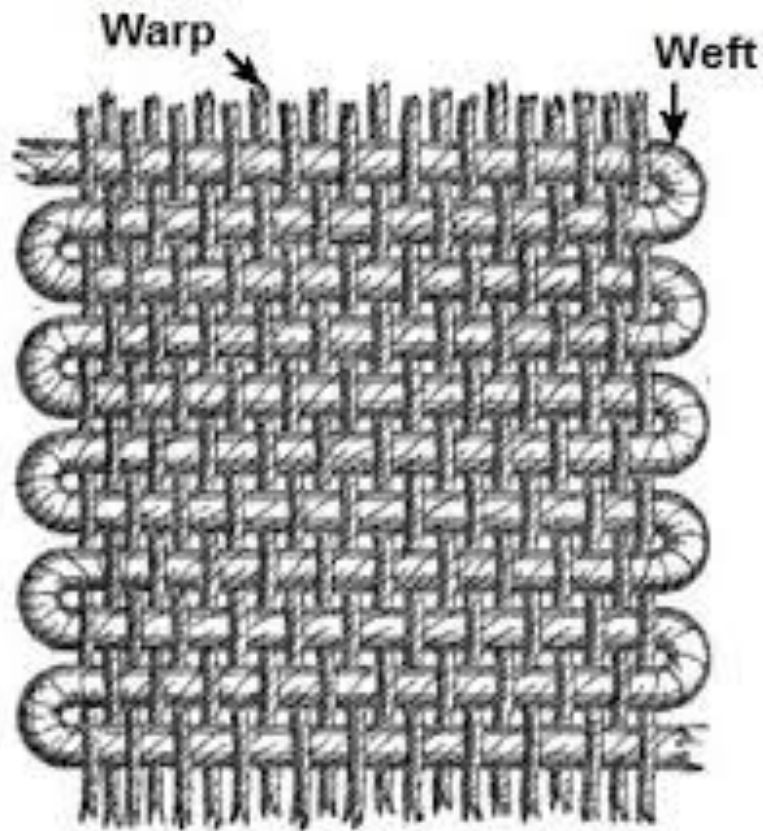
- Current professor of sculpture, California State University, Chico
- Interested in sculpture as an “instrument” - something that aids in or causes an action or reaction
- Simons asked people to draw images of what they thought a mammoth tooth would look like and then created sculptures based on the drawings.



About Weaving

TERMS and VOCABULARY

- FIBER - fine, thread-like piece or filament from which a textile is formed.
- LOOM - tool used to weave threads into textiles.
- WARP - the threads that run the length of the weave.
- WEFT - the thread that runs horizontally, weaving through the warp.







VIDEOS

- Jacquard Loom: <https://youtu.be/0lJns3fPItE>
- DIY Loom make and weave: <https://youtu.be/SS7 fsPGMKs>
- TC2 digital jacquard loom: <https://youtu.be/UK6IgovdKLA>

THEMES

POSSIBLE THEMES for DISCUSSION

- Art vs Craft
- Form vs Content
- Tradition and Innovation
- Influence and connection between Teacher and Student