



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was thinking the other day of how fortunate I am to have a group of fibre artists to share and connect with. Even with everyone having different areas of interest we can draw inspiration and ideas from each other. This was especially evident at our first TFAM retreat. I left feeling inspired, fulfilled and with new techniques in my toolbox to play with.

For all the work that went into making this retreat happen, I would say it was a resounding success. We certainly packed a lot of activities in over the weekend. I needed a week to recover!

It was also our first showing of Textural Dimensions, and Wow... it is a fantastic Exhibit. I hope you all get to see it in person to really appreciate all the details.

A special thanks to all the instructors, presenters and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this Retreat happen.

We held our AGM on the Sunday of the retreat October 15, 2023. Below is a brief recap of our AGM for those that could not attend:

After the annual elections the Executive committee has remained the same for the following year.

- Yvonne Rempel - President
- Antoinette Blankvoort - Vice-president
- Michelle Gaber - Treasurer
- Tania Deleva - Secretary
- Krista Zeghers - Past President
- Adeline Sellwood has volunteered to serve as chair for the 2024 Fibre Festival.
- Dawn Piasta will continue as Newsletter Editor. TFAM puts out a newsletter four times a year.

- A new Education Committee was appointed, consisting of Lynda Matchullis, Elaine Filyk and Michelle Craigen.
- Yvonne Carlson (Communications, website, etc), Theresa Shaw (Education) and Cathie Ugrin (Exhibits) remain in their respective roles.

Thank you all for volunteering your time to support TFAM! We passed a motion to keep our membership fees @ \$40.00 for the year 2024. Yeah!

Our new 2024 Exhibit was announced by Krista Zeghers and Coreen Zerr. The theme is Duel Impressions and more details are included in this newsletter and on our Website.

We also reviewed the results of our online survey. Thanks to those who filled out the survey. It really helps us in planning going forward.

We ended our meeting with a draw for early membership renewals. A beautiful gift of hand woven tea towels made by Michelle Campeau was awarded to Heidi Ouellette. Congratulations!

As we settle in to the winter season and approach the holidays, I want to wish everyone a joyous season and all the best for the new year. We have great plans for the coming year, so stay tuned and stay in touch.

Yvonne Rempel

TFAM President

NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

Volume 7 Issue 4

Newsletter Coordinator:

Dawn Piasta

Communications Coordinator:

Yvonne Carlson

Next Issue Deadline:

February 20, 2024

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TFAM EDUCATION REPORT Submitted by: Theresa Shaw

Greetings everyone,

The weather here in Manitoba has been unseasonably warm the last few weeks, and we can all be forgiven for neglecting our WIPs and UFOs in favour of outdoor pursuits. As the cold weather sets in and the holiday season begins, special projects will become our focus once again, I'm sure. I currently have stations set up, embroidery samplers on the couch, crochet scrumbles on the dining room table, quilt pieces on my sewing room floor... and knitting books and yarn everywhere. Did I say focus?

Just like we are pulled in different directions with our creativity, we are often tasked with many different responsibilities this time of year. I hope that you are able to give your attention to the things that matter most to you and your family, that you enjoy all that the winter season can offer, and that you can finish at least one project on time!

Please include TFAM in your plans....

On December 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm, we are hosting our annual TFAM Virtual Holiday Meet-Up. Join us for an evening of laughter, fun and fibre. This time of year there are many ways in which we celebrate seasonal changes, cultural traditions, and maybe new beginnings. Our December Meet-Up is all about

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

What and how do you celebrate this time of year? What keepsakes or decorations have you made that have stood the test of time and get dragged out every year? Whether it's a glitter covered garland or a patchwork flannel wreath (yes, I made that), we'd love to see and hear all about them. So dress up, prepare a favourite snack, and gather with us virtually, as we share what brings us together and what makes us unique as people and artists.

And then suddenly, it's 2024!!! Happy New Year!!!! Here's what's planned so far for 2024....

TFAM Talks are returning for another year. Join us for a series of conversations about natural fibre. Each week we will focus on one of four fibres, wool, cotton, linen and silk. We'll chat about its history, current use, and possible future in this crazy world of fast fashion and technological hybrid materials. Do you love natural fibres or are you all about the new and shiny? What do you love about them? How do you use them?

We will send out a list of resources for you to peruse and mull over for each featured fibre. The conversations will be on Zoom at 6:30-7:30 pm Central Time, on the second Thursday of each month from January to April....that's Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 14, and Apr 11.

On January 16 we welcome textile artist, Pat Pauly, to our monthly virtual Meet-Up. Pat will be presenting an intriguing topic: Challenge Yourself: Unpredictable Outcomes from Obtuse Ideas.

The art quilt world is full of bizarre ways to tease out work through themes, fabric choices, or worse, deadlines. Pat will show us how she embraces a challenge, sees a design decision, and comes up with a solution no one else would think to make. Her Powerpoint presentation is full of examples, with 350 images never enough. Tune in and be sure to take notes on how to use a challenge to turn obtuse ideas into successful quilts. Website: patpauly.com

In the week following her presentation, Pat will host a virtual workshop for TFAM members, where we work in real time. The workshop takes place over two days, Monday, Jan. 22 and Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 10am - 4pm each day.

Improvisational Abstract Quilts: Line, Shape, Setting

Learn to make a sleek, strong, clean pieced line to accent a form, split a shape, or strike through a construction. Pat Pauly takes the simple line, whether curved or straight, and shows how to use this valuable design element. Both a class for learning the technique of piecing as well as one that offers work in design and composition, it adds the language of the linear form to your work. You'll learn to place and piece lines, learn to cut shapes improvisationally, and know how to set both in compositions confidently. Workshop fee for the two days is just \$110 US/per student. Registration is through Pat's website at patpauly.com Go to virtual workshops and at the bottom you'll see the workshop icon, just for us! The password is manitoba. There is a maximum of 15 students so don't delay. Registration is open now.

We have a very special opportunity for TFAM members on Friday, January 26th. We have scheduled a real live in-person tour of the wardrobe department of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. The tour will start at 10:30 am, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

On February 10th we are planning to have our annual Studio

TFAM EDUCATION REPORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Day. Gather with your fibre friends for a day of sharing and discovery. You can explore ideas and techniques to help with your entry for our new exhibit: Dual Impressions, or work on whatever you like. We seem to learn best from each other, don't we? We will also have on display a trunk show from SAQA. Bring your own bag lunch, and we will provide coffee, tea and snacks. The Studio Day will take place at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, at 575 Wardlaw Ave in Winnipeg, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The cost is \$10/person. Registration is open now.

Our February virtual Meet-Up is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00-8:00 pm and will feature a presentation about beading artists in Manitoba, the type of work that is being done, and the challenges many of these artists face. Our special guest will be Sandra Birling of Women Helping Women - a project to help incarcerated Manitoba women who create beaded jewelry.

Our March Meet-Up will be on Tuesday, March 19th from 2:00-4:00 pm and will feature a presentation by textile artist, Karen Lukacs, on The Alchemy of Transforming Garments. Karen has been transforming reclaimed garments and discarded textiles for decades. Published in the first edition of *Altered Couture* magazine, Karen's creations are also found in the pages of *Belle Armoire* magazine.

She's received awards, exhibited in galleries, and honed her skill set alongside several notable textile artisans. Karen's

passion for seeing value in discarded textiles lends itself well to creating Art Wearables through upcycling garments. Inspired by her ancestors, Karen's maker story is as organic as her process of transforming thrift store resources. Through a curated visual presentation, Karen shares tips, tricks, and products she considers essential in her designer/maker toolkit.

karenlukacs.com

And on Friday, March 22, our very own Yvonne Rempel will be teaching a live, in person workshop entitled Wardrobe Remake.

Do you have clothing hanging in your closet that you would like to give new life to? Maybe it needs an alteration to make it fit your body. What about the sweater that is worn to death... let's make something new with it. What about a man's old wool suit jacket that no one wears? Let's repurpose it into a vest or maybe a skirt. An old puffer jacket can become a scarf or a vest. What about vintage finds that could be used in a different way? Let's have an interactive play day where we relook at items we have and make magic happen.

Stay tuned as our plans firm up for April and May 2024. We are hoping to have a second Studio Day in April, as well as several learning opportunities focussing on hand stitching, and creating portraits in fibre. Information will be shared on our website, through our email correspondence with members, and at our meet-ups. Thank you everyone for your participation in TFAM events and, as always, let us know what else you would like to see and do.

Concerned and Compassionate Artists Submitted by Antoinette Blankvoort

We live in very difficult and stressful times for many at the moment. Complex global issues, confusing national concerns and many problems on a local level can create a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness.

As a group of concerned and compassionate artists we may not have the ability to solve all that ails the world but we could maybe try to focus on what we can control, even though it may look insignificant.

We all know of local organizations who are struggling to meet the demands placed on them. Christmas Cheer Board, Koats for Kids, MCC, soup kitchens, addiction outreach, shelters, support for newcomers, CCSA, LGBT Community support, the list is endless

and the need for help is unprecedented.

TFAM as an organization is not going to endorse one group over the other. That is not our mandate and we applaud them all.

But maybe what we can do is to encourage our members to get involved on a level that they feel comfortable with wherever they live. This can be in the form of a small donation, be it monetary or a donation of our volunteer time or why not use our talents and knit, crochet or create a warm article of clothing for those in need. The opportunities to support are endless, the rewards priceless.

INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS

Laine Canivet

Looking through the eye of the camera lens brings Laine into a world alive with colour, beauty, and intricate detail. Inspired, she uses the textile art form to create glimpses into this world. She has taken workshops with internationally acclaimed fibre artists giving her the skills to evoke magic in the world.



Carol Caron

Carols mother would say she was sewing buttons onto fabric at the age of 4. By 8, she was starting to sew, and by 18 had discovered a love of all things' embroidery and crewel (it was the 70s!). At 22, she made her first quilt, at 26 she fell in love with Hardanger and has spent the better part of her life creating things in all previously mentioned mediums. In recent years, she became interested in the different areas that textile art encompassed; which seem to offer her more creative freedom.



Laura Dyck

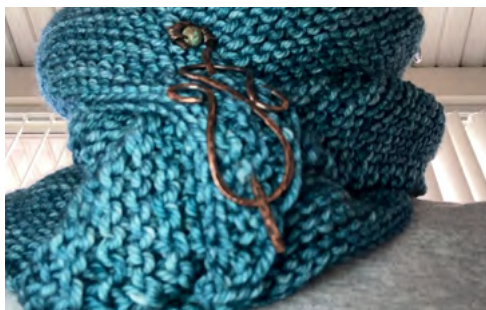
Laura loves making anything with paper or fabric, including slow stitching, mixed media, bookbinding, quilting, knitting, and the list goes on!



INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS

Alexa Gorenko

Since her retirement eight years ago she delved into wool felting, silk fusion, dyeing raw wool, knitting and learning to spin. Alexa's mother exposed her to a quilting and a variety of needlework techniques.



Pam Gunn Matson

Pam is a wool-felt artisan, making toys and other products. All of Pam's pieces are made with 100% wool felt, most of which have been hand dyed with natural ingredients. Pam embellishes with embroidery, beadwork, and appliqué. Everything is stitched by hand. Her patterns are original, and every toy has a personality. Both the young and young at heart buy her products which include custom toys from photographs.



Lauren Carter

Laura is a professional writer with five books published who's been knitting for eight years. She also played with natural dyeing, felting, sewing, and pattern design. Basically, she has fallen in love with fibre art and is interested in developing her skills and finding inspiration and community.



AGM PRIZES

TFAM had two draws
at the AGM this year

Susan Selby won a fall coloured
bundle of fabric in a random draw.

In the early renewal of registrants draw,
Heidi Ouellette won the gorgeous
woven tea towels, by Michelle
Campeau

**Congratulations to
both members!**



TFAM's First Retreat From a New Member's Perspective

Submitted by Barb Hunt

I joined TFAM because I've done a few workshops with the members and I really like the warm and spirited atmosphere of the group. Everyone is eager to learn and experiment and the support for each other is wonderful. And this carried through during the whole retreat - everyone was so kind and helpful. The location was beautiful - walking through trees and fall leaves every morning was a blessing. I enjoyed all the different activities and Krista's energetic leadership! The best part for me was showing our work to each other on the last night. It was wonderful to see such accomplished and moving work, and hear about what motivates each artist. The passion, personal stories, and humour (what great laughs!) made me feel at home, with my crowd (as they say in Newfoundland).

TFAM RETREAT SUMMARY Submitted by: Lynda Matchullis

By definition to inspire means to “fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something especially to do something creative” (Oxford Languages).

It is not surprising that inspiring was the most popular descriptor of TFAM's first artists' retreat. The twenty-five participants who arrived at Camp Assiniboia (October 12-15, 2023) were inspired to learn, share, and connect. Each experience was carefully documented in their homemade journals and here are my thoughts. I have included a few quotes that emerged from group conversations during the weekend.

Creative Journaling with Krista Zeghers

I love to repurpose and what better than using old hardcover books made into stylish journal covers. We learned to add foil, water-coloured inserts, and other embellishments. Each journal was then filled with various paper inserts called signatures. Creating was the easy part. The challenge was to observe and document the retreat events with word or sketch and to make connections using thoughtful prompts from Krista. No procrastinating allowed. Done is better than perfect.

Creating with Colour - Dyeing with Susan Selby

Who doesn't love the opportunity to dig into the messy work once and awhile, if you can be outside of course. Susan walks the walk when it comes to dyeing, starting with white fabric and dyeing all the materials used in her art. She challenged us to try more colour combinations, design new patterns, and use recycled materials. Our creativity was sparked by the unexpected, especially when we opened up our dye bundles. They were happy accidents on display for all to see.

Taking your Fibre Art from 2D to 3D with Yvonne Carlson and Elaine Filyk

Necessity is the mother of all invention would be a good descriptor of how Elaine figured out how to make her 2D creations morph into 3D. Both she and Yvonne tried a variety of different materials to make their work more 'outstanding'. We did the same and for the first time you heard the whirl of our sewing machines. The takeaway for me was to always try something new and look for the possibilities to move aspects into your own work.

Common Threads with Explorer Tamara Klassen

Tamara is a textile explorer, seeking out opportunities to work with textile artists around the world and proving that sometimes you have to create your own moment. Tamara shared stories, pictures, and textiles from her travels in India, Vietnam, Peru, Oaxaca, Laos, Thailand, Guatemala and Columbia. She reminded us that it is important to stop and reflect on your textile journeys every once and awhile. Over time she learned that key influences on worldwide textiles were community, festivals, time, priorities, and seasons. She has come to value textiles that tell a story and use key symbology such as Guatemalan bird embroidery or backstrap weaving in the Peruvian highlands.

Show and Share

“You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” --Maya Angelou

Many of the participants brought in works to share. In doing so we discussed what might help more people get involved. Collectively the group wanted to promote sharing works in progress, as well as completed items. There was a reminder that the focus of sharing

should be on productive and supportive feedback.

Breakouts - felters, embroiderers, crocheters, knitters

We can all be passionate about certain aspects of fibre art. After all, I can sleep when I die. Each breakout group discovered that there is so much to learn and experience first-hand because the best teachers are among us.

Yoga with Deb Dawson-Dunn

After a weekend bent over our work and wrestling with our machines, it was good to go with the flow in a Sunday morning yoga session.

Textural Dimensions is an exhibition organized by Rosalind Sims and Adeline Sellwood, and displayed by Kathy Ugrin.

It is hard not to be inspired when the 36 pieces in this art show were on display. As we learned new techniques we were reminded of how to put them to use. *“Collectively we are a creative force that can produce a fine body of work as Art is the elimination of the unnecessary” --Pablo Picasso.*

Thank you to the executive for their fine planning of this retreat. Thank you to Camp Assiniboia for providing a welcoming venue. Thank you to the participants for their curiosity and enthusiasm. It was a well-organized event, sprinkled with many opportune moments. Our creative juices flowed while gathering by the fireplace or taking a walk in the woods. I left the retreat thinking that my cup is overflowing.

Executive: Yvonne Rempel, Yvonne Carlson, Krista Zeghers, Michelle Gaber, Theresa Shaw, Kathy Ugrin, Tania Deleva, Dawn Piasta

TRIBUTES

Tributes to retreat teachers at TFAM retreat 2023

Now that our first creative retreat is just a pleasant memory, I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the instructors who guided and inspired our creative efforts throughout the weekend.

Krista Zeghers was our coach, keeping us busy building journaling skills throughout the weekend. Susan Selby provided us with a well-organized, colourful day of fabric dyeing. Elaine Filyk and Yvonne Carlson provided excellent guidance on creating 3D vessels from 2D materials. Guest speaker Tamara Klassen inspired us with her descriptions of her textile travels and her trunk show of textile treasures. And lastly, Deb Dawson-Dunn had everyone bending and stretching well-used (and some little used) muscles, while reflecting on all that we had experienced over three days of fibre fun. Well done, ladies! Submitted by: Theresa Shaw

SPECIAL INTEREST

Photos from the 2023 Retreat



2023 RETREAT PHOTOS



2023 RETREAT PHOTOS



TFAM WINTER EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

Submitted by Cathie Ugrin

EXHIBIT 'JOY'

Sept/ Oct/ Nov/ Dec 2023: MacGregor Library in MacGregor, MB

EXHIBIT 'SHIFTING PERSPECTIVE'

Oct/ Nov/ Dec 2023: United Community Arts in Pilot Mound, MB

February 2024: Turtle Mountain Arts in Killarney, MB

EXHIBIT 'RIVER'

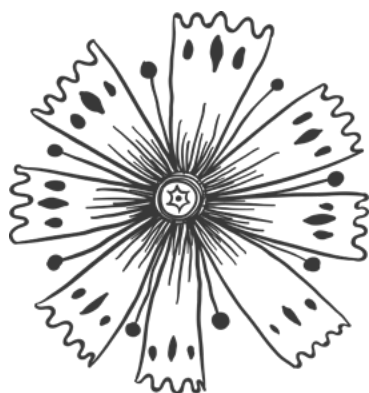
Nov 1 – Dec 27, 2023

Charleswood Library in Winnipeg, MB

January 3 - February 28, 2024: Golden Prairie Arts in Carman, MB

TEXTURAL DIMENSION

Sometime between January and March 2024: Manitou Opera House in Manitou, MB - dates to be confirmed



SAQA RESOURCES

Through the Affiliate membership that TFAM holds with SAQA (Studio Art Quilt Associates), all members are given access to the amazing resources that SAQA has to offer.

HOW TO ACCESS. Login on [SAQA website](#) Login information has been sent to all TFAM members.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

GO SEE AN EXHIBIT!

Submitted by: Theresa Shaw

World of Threads

Queen Elizabeth Park and Community Centre Oakville, Ontario

October 15 - January 14, 2024 ***extended*******

The World of Threads Festival is a leading international showcase of contemporary fibre and textile art. The Festival is run by mother and son team, dedicated volunteer Dawne Rudman (Festival Chair and Curator) and Gareth Bate (Festival Curator, Photographer, Web and Graphic Designer). They believe that some of the most exciting and compelling artwork being made today is happening in the field of fibre arts. Through their initiatives they have discovered some remarkable artists and brought them to the attention of Canadian and international audiences.

Radical Stitch

Thunder Bay Art Gallery. Thunder Bay, Ontario

October 13, 2023 - March 3, 2024

Beading is one of the defining mediums of contemporary Indigenous art on this continent, and this landmark exhibition brings much needed critical attention to the breadth and impact of this practice. Radical Stitch looks at the contemporary and transformative context of beading through the aesthetic innovations of artists and the tactile beauty of beads. The exhibition includes a range of work from the customary to the contemporary, with a variety of approaches, concepts, and purposes. Gathering together top artists from across North America/Turtle Island, the selected pieces exemplify the current and future directions of some of the most exciting and impressive practices. The works in Radical Stitch invite viewers to immerse themselves in the political, creative, and aesthetic dimensions of beadwork.

Just a Needle and Thread: Embroidery From the MCML Collection

C2 Centre for Craft. Winnipeg, Manitoba

Through December 31, 2023

To help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, we have an exhibit of embroidery from the MCML Collection.

Winipihk (Muddy Waters)

C2 Centre For Craft. Winnipeg, Manitoba

November 1- December 21, 2023

The land in which Winnipeg sits has been a historic meeting ground where craft has been traded for centuries. Initially through thriving and active Indigenous cultures for over 11,000 years, and later in a colonial settlement for the past 200 years. The City of Winnipeg was officially founded in 1873. Since then, the lands have been home to many diverse communities and cultures. Some of these communities are seen through the craft works of the artists who made them while others represent the city with pride. From beading to rug hooking to hand woven sarongs, Winnipeg is represented through its crafters. We explore some of the local communities and Winnipeg through pieces from the MCML collection.

Mimicry and Adaptation: Tracking the Influence of Traditional Ukrainian Clothing on Western Fashion

Oseredok: Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre. Winnipeg, MB

November 14 - March 15, 2024

This exhibition celebrates the rich and diverse history of Ukrainian fashion, showcasing the evolution of style, craftsmanship, and creativity that has marked this country's contribution to the global fashion landscape. "Mimicry and Adaptation" will take you on a visual journey through the centuries, from traditional Ukrainian garments and embroidery to contemporary Western haute couture and ready-to-wear collections. This exhibition, guest curated by collector Natalka Chomiak, is an exclusive look at a wide array of never-before-seen items from the Oseredok Museum collection, the Manitoba Crafts Museum, the Costume Museum of Canada, and from private textile and garment collections across Canada.

CALL FOR ENTRY Submitted by: Theresa Shaw

Refer to individual websites for more details on dates and entry requirements. There are many more opportunities available online by searching for individual quilt or art organizations.

December 15, 2023

Grand National Fibre Art Exhibition:
Delights

Every one of us has pleasures in our lives.

What delights you? What makes you happy, joyous and cheerful? What lifts your heart?

We asked the fibre artists of Canada to share their 'Delights' with us.

grandnationalfibreartexhibition.com

January 1 - February 9, 2024

Visions Museum of Textile Art (VMOTA):
Quilt Visions 2024

The museum's 25th international juried exhibition. Exhibition jurors Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry, Karl Reichert and Sandra Sider will select work exemplifying art quilting at the highest level of quality, innovation, surface design techniques, excellence in composition, and craftsmanship. quiltvisions2024.artcall.org

February 5, 2024

Studio Art Quilt Association (Canada):
Renewal

Renewal is:

- rekindling, looking to a new future, finding hope,
- resuming an activity after an interruption, renewing a past friendship,
- the cycles of nature: spring growth, forest regeneration, a new moon,
- extending validity, such as renewing a passport, a library card, a subscription, or marriage vows,
- repair of something worn out, restoring to an original state, recovering strength or urban renewal.
- for complete details go to saqa.com

January 3-February 16, 2024

Quilt Canada 2024 National Juried Show

Various categories. For details go to

<https://canadianquilter.com/call-for-entry-2024-national-juried-show>

February 1-29, 2024

Fiber Reimagined II

This popular exhibition returns for its second year. Enter your innovative contemporary art created from fibre and recycled and repurposed mixed media. All submissions must include a fibre material or textile technique. Juried artwork will be featured in the Summer 2024 issue of Fiber Art Now and selected works will be eligible for an onsite exhibition. fiberartnow.net

June 1-30, 2024

ARTwear

What does the title of this call bring to mind? If it's only clothing, you're mistaken. We are looking for artful pieces made with fibre and/or constructed using fibre or textile techniques. And, yes, jewelry and accessories are included in this call (hats, scarves, shoes, etc.). Take a look at the technique list on the Fiber Art Now website and get inspired, fiberartnow.net. Juried artwork will be featured in the Fall 2024 issue of Fiber Art Now and selected works will be eligible for an onsite exhibition. fiberartnow.net

August 1-31, 2024

Excellence in Fibers X

This Excellence In Fibers is their 10th anniversary exhibition, bringing the best of current international fibre and textiles to a growing global fibre art community. Artists are encouraged to push the boundaries in the areas of installations, sculpture, vessels, wall/floor works, and wearable art. The exhibition will be featured in the winter 2024-2025 issue of Fiber Art Now to be released in early January 2025. Selected artwork will be eligible for the onsite exhibition at the Schack Art Center in Everett, Washington, January 15 through February 14, 2026. fiberartnow.net

Spring: May 26-June 2, 2024

Fall: September 29-October 6, 2024

Manitoba Craft Council Retreat at Victoria Beach on Lake Winnipeg

The Manitoba Craft Council Retreat was created to encourage the artistic development of Manitoba craft artists across the spectrum of craft media. The successful applicants will have access to a well-appointed cottage at Victoria Beach, MB during the dates above for the purpose of self-directed, craft-related learning, research and making, either alone or in a small group. *Deadline to apply:* January 9, 2024 c2centreforcrafter.ca

Also, lyrickinard.com has an extensive list of calls for entry in US.

CONTACT US

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/tfamartists

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TFAMartists

Facebook (Members Only): www.facebook.com/groups/1669208509877992