

Dallas Area Fiber ARTists

JULY 2010

FOCUS ON *Silk: From Moth to Cloth*

Textile artist Michael Cook will be the presenter at DAFA's July 26 meeting, according to program chair Linda Disosway. The local artist, who has been working with silk since 2001, will present "Silk: From Moth to Cloth."

The presentation will cover silk from a variety of angles, including its history, entomology, production of silk fiber, and the use of silk in the fiber arts. Michael has published numerous print and online articles, in addition to hosting a website, <http://www.wormspit.com>. He has demonstrated silk-making and taught silk workshops for guilds and festivals around



JULY MEETING

- Monday, July 26, The Point at C.C. Young Retirement Community.
- 5:30 p.m. Mini-workshop: *Folded Journals*, led by April Soncrant. (See details on pages 4 and 5.)
- 7:00 p.m. Business meeting, Show 'n' Tell, and program.
- Program: *Silk: From Moth to Cloth* presented by textile artist Michael Cook.

the country, including the Spin Off Annual Retreat (SOAR), the Nutmeg Spinners Guild, the State Fair of Texas, Texas Discovery Gardens, the American Museum of Natural History, Kid & Ewe, and many more. He lives in Oak Cliff with his partner and their menagerie of three dogs, three cats, five chickens, 20 fishes, 10,000 bees, and hundreds of tiny wiggly fiber livestock.

Michael will reel silk during the presentation, using a two-basin system. If members want to take

TOP: Michael Cook is shown reeling silk, a process he will demonstrate at the DAFA meeting. ABOVE: A sample of Michael's silk embroidery.

home some of the silk filament, they are asked to bring a toilet paper tube, or spool to wind it onto. ❖

President's Message

I hope everyone had a glorious 4th of July! Very unusual to have rain — but at least the temperature was under 100 degrees.

I have been trying to clean up my workroom all this year — it has been a trainwreck for about three years. At first I tried to clear space so I could move the bookcases. Then I decided to move the bookcases first and see if that helped with the space — and it did. Of course, I also found dustbunnies the size of my small black cat.

There really isn't any more space than there was before, but it seems like there is. Then I went through all the "stuff" on the bookcases. I was able to get rid of projects I am never going to finish (or even start). I figure if I haven't worked on a project in five years, I probably won't. But I also found fabric and/or projects that are almost finished or can be used for future projects. I have been donating my unwanted fabric or needlework projects to the Ronald McDonald House for their new craft room.

The year is half over — I can't believe how fast time is going by. Time to get busy on all those projects you planned to do in January!

See you at the July meeting —

Janet



This photo of Denton High School students wearing their DAFA-sponsored fiber arts projects was one of many images presented at the DAFA June meeting by grant recipients Leslie Kregel and Linda Disosway. See story on next page.

DAFA BOARD 2010-2011

DAFA's officers for 2010-2011 include the following members. The guild thanks them for accepting leadership posts for the coming year:

Janet Jelen, president
president@dallasfiberartists.org

Katina Hronas, vice president
vicepres@dallasfiberartists.org

Diana Pease, treasurer
treasurer@dallasfiberartists.org

Linda Disosway, programs
prgms@dallasfiberartists.org

Denise Spillane, mini-workshops
miniwkshp@dallasfiberartists.org

Mary Masal, annual workshop
annualwkshp@dallasfiberartists.org

Carolyn Skei, website/newsletter
communications@dallasfiberartists.org

April Soncrant, membership
membership@dallasfiberartists.org

Bobbie Jackson, historian
history@dallasfiberartists.org

Jules Rushing, show chair
show@dallasfiberartists.org

Diana Pease and JoAnn Musso, state representatives
stateboard@dallasfiberartists.org



ABOVE: Program presenters Leslie Kregel (back row, left) and Linda Disosway (back row, second from left) are shown with the family of Peggy Tajchman, who was memorialized at the June meeting. Family members include Peggy's daughter, Margi, and husband, Ed (front row), and her son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Nancy Tajchman (back row).



TOP RIGHT: Delores Lyon presents a tribute to Sandi Wheeler, the other DAFA member memorialized. CENTER RIGHT: Bobbie Jackson presents the history of DAFA. BOTTOM RIGHT: An early DAFA scrapbook was part of Bobbie's presentation. Photos by Michelle Knoerzer.

DAFA HISTORY AND RECENT GRANTS ARE FOCUS OF DAFA'S JUNE MEETING

Grants presented this past year in memory of two DAFA members were the focus of the guild's June meeting. DAFA member Linda Disosway gave a PowerPoint presentation of her fiber arts work with Tom Landry Elementary School in Carrollton, made possible through a grant in memory of the late Sandi Wheeler. Denton High School art teacher Leslie Kregel gave a presentation of her fiber arts work with her Denton students

through a grant in memory of the late Peggy Tajchman. (See photo on next page of some of her students and their work.)

Each project received a \$500 grant from DAFA

The departed members were also memorialized with tributes presented by their good friends in the guild: Audrey Legatowicz presented memories of Peggy Tajchman, and Delores Lyon presented memories of Sandi Wheeler.



Completing the program was a presentation on the history of DAFA, given by long-time member Bobbie Jackson, who currently serves as the guild's historian. ❖



MINI-WORKSHOP: Paper Beads

The mini-workshop for June featured Cathie Mercer teaching paper bead making and decorating. Photos, counter clockwise from top left: Paper beads drying on a plastic fork. Cathie Mercer modeling her necklace of paper and fiber beads. Fiber-wrapped beads in progress. DAFA member Joyce Van Dermark hard at work. Mini-workshop chair Denise Spillane (foreground) and Traci Hutton producing beads. ❖



COMING: SOFT FOLDED JOURNAL

April Soncrant will teach the mini-workshop prior to the July meeting, showing members a folded journal that noted artist Teesha Moore makes from a single large sheet of paper. April will provide paper large enough for producing a 5 x 7 journal. Members who wish to bring 22 x 30 paper can produce an 8 x 10 journal with flaps. See page 5 for a suggested supply list, which includes scissors, glue or medium, magazines or pre-cut or torn collage images. ❖



SUPPLY LIST

Mini-Workshop: Folded Journal a la Teesha Moore July 26

- *Supply fee: \$2. April Soncrant, the workshop leader, will provide paper for those who would simply like to learn the folding technique and Teesha Moore's approach to collage. Those who would like to make a larger, painted journal should bring a 22 x 30 sheet of watercolor or art paper (preferably a type that will not crack when folded).*
- *Basic journal construction tools: Scissors, metal ruler, pencil, markers, bone folder, awl or needle for piercing.*
- *Collage materials from magazines or recycled art, brushes (e.g., 1-inch brush or other preferred glue brushes). Bring medium if you prefer. April has ample white glue to share.*
- *OPTIONAL for those who bring their own watercolor paper: paints, water container and brushes. April will share her liquid watercolors and craft paints. Remember, time will be limited! ❖*

CHRISTO PROJECT: OVER THE RIVER

Connie Akers provides links about the international fiber artists (yes, fiber artists!) Christo and the late Jeanne-Claude, whose plans to suspend 5.9 miles of silvery, luminous fabric panels high along stretches of

the Arkansas River in Colorado are moving closer to realization. See <http://www.overtheriverinfo.com/> and environmental impact information at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/planning/otr.html> . ❖



PAM PATTON

MESSAGE FROM THE DAFA SHOW CHAIR

It's time to start thinking of new projects for our Annual Show! This year our Annual Show is scheduled for the ArtCentre of Plano Nov. 5-27. This will be a juried show. We are currently working on the particulars of the show and will update you as they are secured.

We have also secured a DAFA show for December with the Oxide Gallery in Denton. This will also be a juried show. The dates are Dec. 7-30, 2010. Artwork in this show will need to be available for sale. Oxide Gallery takes a 40 percent commission. We will need 15 to 20 artists to submit two pieces of artwork each, for the gallery to jury from. As we get closer to the date, I will give more information. Right now I need a "show of hands" of those interested, so we can make sure we have enough interest to have a good show for DAFA and the gallery. Maximum size of artwork allowed will be 40" in width and 60" in height. All types of fiber art are welcome! The gallery has stands for free-standing artwork.

Because jury time for the Oxide Gallery is Nov. 19 - 20, artwork in the Annual Show will not be available. So it is time to get thinking and working!

Please email me at jules@studiojulesart.com to let me know if you are interested.

Jules Rushing
DAFA Show Chair ❖



Cassie Curnutt's raw-edge applique



Michelle Knoerzer's Kool-Aid-dyed yarn



JoAnn Musso's purse

Show & Tell, June 2010



Audrey Legatowicz's felting



Kathy Middleton's painted canvas houses for HOMES Catholic charity.



Mary Lou Smith's pendants

DAFA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

• Gay Ousley has won several awards for her quilted pieces. Most recently her quilt “The Scarlet Letter” was selected for inclusion in the next exhibit of the Alzheimer’s Art Quilt Initiative, “Alzheimer’s Illustrated: From Heartbreak to Hope” The quilts selected can be seen for a short while at <http://www.alzquilts.org/exhibit.html> . Gay has also received awards for two pieces in the Art Quilt Association exhibition at the Visitors Center of Mesa

Verde National Park (Colorado). “Elegant Aspens” won first place, and “Nestled Away” placed sixth among 101 entries. See details at www.theartquilts-sociation.com .

• Baylor University art professor and DAFA member Mary Ruth Smith will be the featured speaker at the August 5 meeting of the Quilter’s Guild of Dallas. Her topic will be “My Journey to Quilt Making.” QGD opens its meetings to guests. Visit www.quiltersguildofdallas.org .

• Two members are teaching classes for Fabrique! Fabrics this summer. Melanie Fredrickson has two ongoing summer classes for children: “Ready, Set, Sew!” and “Future Designers.” JoAnn Musso is a new instructor offering three classes: “Bits and Pieces,” July 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; “Thread Painting,” Aug. 5, 1-4 p.m.; “Shrugs, Shawls and Capes,” Aug. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Visit www.fabriquefabrics.com and <http://www.fabriquefabrics.com/thread-painting/> . ❖

CALLS FOR ENTRIES

• Oxide Gallery in Denton invites entries for its August Theme Show, “Wild Wild West.” No restrictions on medium. Submissions are due July 23-24. Details at <http://oxide-gallery.com/ArtworkOpenCall-August10.html> .

• Creative arts entries for the Texas State Fair are due July 30. See creative arts handbook details in the left column at <http://www.bigtex.com> .

• Submissions are due by July 21 for the 2011 Texas Biennial sponsored by Big Medium, a non-profit contemporary art group in Austin. See details at <http://www.texasbiennial.com/> .

• The 24th Annual Materials: Hard & Soft exhibit will be held Feb. 4-April 3, 2011. This

national contemporary craft competition and exhibition is sponsored by the Greater Denton Arts Council. Entries are due Sept.10, 2010. For more information, visit http://www.dentonarts.com/gdac99/about_gdac/programs/materials_hard_and_soft.htm .

• Peace Felt 2010 invites participation in its “Circle of Peace Felt Around the World.” See details at <http://www.peacefelt.org/> .

• Make, the Bishop Arts District shop and studio for things hand-made, has scheduled its Urban Street Bazaar for Oct. 2-3; application forms are available for artists who would like to participate. Deadline is Aug. 4. Visit <http://www.urbanstreetbazaar.com/> . ❖

CLASSES, SHOWS

• A fashion show at Fabrique! Fabrics on Saturday July 17, 1 p.m., will feature a 20-garment trunk show of garments made with Decades of Style vintage style patterns. Details at www.fabriquefabrics.com .

• Quilt Country in Lewisville has added a new category of classes to its schedule: Extreme Quilting classes will introduce new techniques for art quilters. Examples are classes like “Accidental Landscapes,” “Painting with Shiva Sticks,” and “Fun with Tucks.” Visit www.quiltcountry.com and click on Classes.

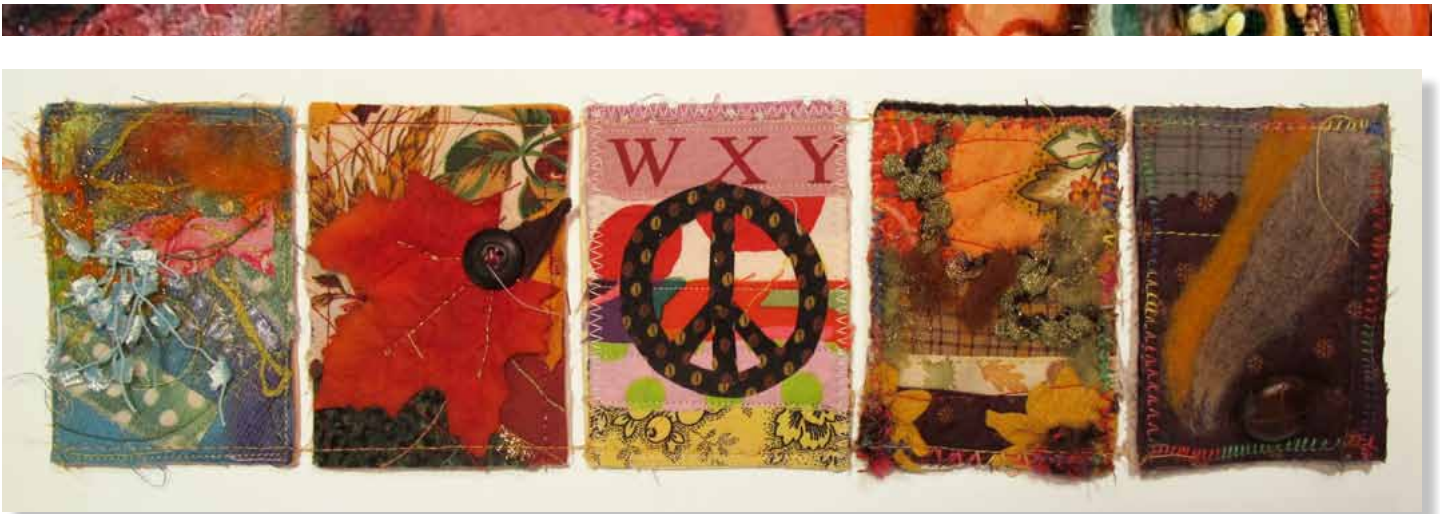
• Learn to sew or refresh your skills at Bernina of Dallas/Plano’s Learn to Sew Lounge classes every week in November. See details at www.bestofbernina.com . ❖

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- Read a refreshing article on “Slow Cloth,” presented by Valley Fiber Life: Your Valley of Fiber Arts, or explore a full list of other articles. Starting place: <http://valleyfiberlife.squarespace.com/imported-data/slow-cloth-its-the-journey.html>
- Quilting Arts magazine offers a free on-line book titled Fine Embellishment Techniques: Five Innovative Ways to Embellish Your Fiber Art. Visit http://quiltingarts.com/Fabric-Embellishment-Techniques/?utm_source=launch&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=lau100708e . For other “free stuff,” visit <http://www.quiltingarts.com/media/g/free/default.aspx> .
- For “free stuff” from Cloth Paper Scissors magazine visit <http://www.clothpaperscissors.com/media/12/default.aspx> .
- See the impressive tapestries of Anna Kocherovsky at <http://www.tapestrystudio.com/> .
- Dharma Trading Company offers hundreds of short pieces on fiber artists and the techniques they use in working with a variety of Dharma products. Visit <http://www.dharmatrading.com/featured/> to see the recent additions.
- Visit the blog of Long Island fiber artist Jude Hill, “Spirit Cloth ... Quilting a Story” at http://spiritcloth.typepad.com/spirit_cloth/about-me.html .
- See freeform machine embroidery tips and a project on the Quilting Daily blog: <http://quiltingarts.com/blogs/quilting-daily/archive/2010/07/06/new-freeform-machine-embroidery-tips-amp-project.aspx>
- Learn all about zippers with Threads magazine video presentations: <http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/14580/teach-yourself-to-sew-zippers-101> and <http://www.craftstylish.com/item/65474/teach-yourself-to-sew-how-to-install-a-zipper> . There will be different types of zipper how-to’s every week.
- Learn to make thread bars: <http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/14669/thread-bars> .
- See the work of Ellen Lindner, “Adventure Quilter,” at <http://www.adventurequilter.com/index.html> .
- See biomimetic structures in paper and fabric at <http://fairytalefashion.org/episode.php?id=2> .
- Learn about Susan Lenart Kazmer, creator of a line of charms now at Michaels called Industrial Chic and author of a book on making jewelry with cold joins (no soldering).
Blog: <http://www.susan-lenart-kazmer.blogspot.com/> .
Website: <http://susanlenartkazmer.net/>
Shopping: http://objectsandelements.typepad.com/objects_and_elements/
More trinkets: http://objectsandelements.typepad.com/objects_and_elements/ .
- See news from the Surface Design Association at <http://dev surfacedesign.org/blog/> .
- See the vivid, hand-dyed quilts of Frieda Anderson at <http://www.friestyle.com/gallery.html> .
- View the colorful dolls and quilts of Cheryl Smith at the Magpie Artworks site: <http://www.magpieartworks.com/> .

ART SHOPPING

A new quilt shop, Material Girl, has opened in Denton at 1800 N. Carroll Blvd, Suite 101. The shop is owned by Alice Patton, who was an employee at Linda’s Quilt Shop before it closed. ❖



COMING: ATC SWAP IN SEPTEMBER

Mini-workshop chair Denise Spillane and the DAFA board announce an upcoming Swap of Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) for all interested members. The swap will take place before the September general meeting, in the time slot usually reserved for mini-workshops.

Anyone wishing to participate is invited to make 10 fiber-related ATCs and to bring them to exchange for the ATCs of 10 other members. Any theme is appropriate. The 10 cards may all be different, or an edition of 10 similar pieces. Media used should include fibers of some kind.



ABOUT ATCs

The tradition of Artist Trading Cards specifies that they are never sold. They are small works of art intended to be shared with other artists.

The first ATC project was initiated in 1997 by a Swiss artist. The correct size for ATCs is the same as that of standard playing cards and souvenir cards like baseball cards — 2.5 inches by 3.5 inches. ♦

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who offered information and assistance for this issue of DAFA's newsletter, especially Michelle Knoerzer, Linda Disosway, Lu Peters, Jules Rushing, Denise Spillane, April Soncrant, and Audrey Legatowicz.

Please submit information for future newsletter issues and for e-mail updates to communications@dallasfiberartists.org.



IT'S TIME to renew or join DAFA. Please download a membership form, and mail with your check to DAFA at P.O. Box 671036, Dallas, TX 75367. Dues are \$30, \$25 seniors (65 and over), \$25 students (with valid ID). All members must submit a new form

A small portion of your dues goes to the Texas Federation of Fiber Arts, which sponsors a biennial conference and exhibition for fiber artists. Membership entitles you to a 20 percent discount at Asel Art.

You may also contribute to the guild simply by registering DAFA as your charity of choice at your Tom Thumb or Kroger store. Your reward card use results in a percentage for DAFA. Membership form and other details at www.dallasfiberartists.org. ♦