

www.vgfa.org

April 2009 NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMME

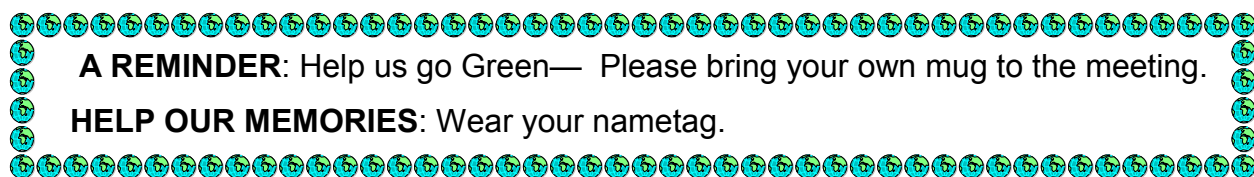
Gail Hunt

Monthly meeting: April 9; 7:00PM **A Panel on Professional Fibre Practice**

with Jane Kenyon, Bettina Matzkuhn and Katherine Soucie For further information see page 4

NOTE Change of Location: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 154 East 10 Ave, Van.

May 14 Aberthou at 7:30pm Our May program will have a Korean flavour. Raine McKay, the new executive director of the Crafts Council of B.C., will give us an overview of the upcoming Cheongju Craft Biennale and the Fine Craft exhibit that will take place at the Vancouver Museum in 2010, and Sang Jae Nam, our Hanji partner and artist in residence at Capilano University, will give a demonstration on working with Hanji paper.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Virginia Baldwin

"THE HIGHEST AND BEST FORM OF EFFICIENCY IS THE SPONANEOUS COOPERATION OF A FREE PEOPLE." *Bernard Baruch, 1921*

Co-operate - verb - to work or act together; to assist or be willing to assist.

Although this quote came from a military source, I recently came across a dramatic peaceful (albeit activist) example of the definition - 'When Women Rule the World', a survey exhibition of four decades of the Textile Art of Judy Chicago, at the Textile Museum in Toronto. (See review page 7.) Judy Chicago draws and paints, but she does not stitch, knit, crochet, appliqué, embroider, knot, weave or do any other form of textile technique. She has instead assembled a remarkable collection of skilled workers in these techniques, some of whom have been interpreting her designs for over 25 years. The intensity and mutual respect her work has entailed over those four decades of 'co-operation' are in many ways as inspiring as the finished artworks - she walks her talk of feminist activism.

This example of cooperation made me wonder who we - as textile artists - might seek out to co-operate with. The Chihuly Pilchuk glass school in Oregon gets artists-in-residence who know nothing of glass blowing simply to foster cross fertilization of ideas. Who would you like to work with? Who's work do you admire in another field of artistic endeavour? What could you do in your textile medium with a design idea from another source? Think about it - and bring the results to show and tell!

2008-2009 EXECUTIVE & HEADS OF COMMITTEES

<i>President</i>	Virginia Baldwin	604-921-6962	v-baldwin@shaw.ca
<i>Vice president</i>	Katherine McManus	604-738-9296	km@cartodesign.com
<i>Past president</i>	Amanda J S Jones	604-264-0422	amanda_jones@telus.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Jo Skinner	604-221-8284	jomember@telus.net
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dani Lacusta	604-609-2676	danil@dmpibooks.com
<i>Membership</i>	Kate Barber	604-925-2623	ksbarber@telus.net
<i>Program</i>	Gail Hunt	604-875-1276	gailhunt@shaw.ca
<i>— Assistant</i>		Volunteer needed	
<i>Newsletter</i>	Monica Brammer	604-327-9273	mbrammer@uniserve.com
<i>Distribution</i>	Janet Harper	604-873-9458	honeybees@telus.net
<i>Workshops</i>	Jan Bednarczyk	604-985-9783	bedn9783@telus.net
<i>Social</i>	Sharon Gordon	604-278-0631	sharbob1@hotmail.com
<i>Library</i>	Kirsten Chursinoff	604-874-1827	kirsten@chursinoff.com
<i>Exhibitions</i>		Volunteer needed	
<i>Publicity</i>		Volunteer needed	
<i>Archives</i>	Elizabeth McManus	604-908-5848	archive@vgfa.org.
<i>Education</i>		Volunteer needed	
<i>Liaison</i>		Volunteer needed	
<i>Show and Tell</i>	Monica Brammer	604-327-9273	mbrammer@uniserve.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Paula O'Brien	604-886-8089	paula@pavelkadesign.com

www.vgfa.org

SHOW & TELL

There will be
NO
SHOW & TELL

At the
Special
APRIL
Meeting

MEMBERSHIP *Kate Barber*

Please Add:

New Members:

Jean Betts
2215 Florence St
Victoria, BC V8R 5E7
250-595-2726
jbetts@islandnet.com

Renewing:

Lydia Hiebert
103-2 Renaissance Square
New Westminster, BC V3M 6K3
604-521-4842
lydiahiebert@lightspeed.ca

Contents:

Calendar	page.....3
Calls for Entry	page.....8
Current Exhibits	page.....5
Exhibit Reviews	page7
In Review	page.....3
From the Newsstands	page.....5
Library	page.....2
Membership	page.....2
Of Interest	page ...6-7
Maiwa article	page.....9-10
Programme	page.....1, 4
VGFA Exhibition	page.....8
VGFA 2010 Retreat	page.....9
Workshops/Events	page.....5
Other Workshops	page.....6, 7

Mar Door Prize Winners

*Lydia Hiebert
[quilt]*

*Jill Taylor
[Chinese
Knotting]*

LIBRARY NEWS

Kirsten Chursinoff

No library returns will be accepted at the April 9 meeting due to the off-site venue.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Deadline for the May issue is **April 15th**, please send your emails to mbrammer@uniserve.com or phone 604-327-9273. Or 878 E 37 Ave Van V5W 1G2 Thanks, Monica

IN REVIEW : IF YOU MISSED THE Mar MEETING

Penny Le Couteur, retired Dean of Arts and Science at Capilano University started by reminding us that the eye detects wave lengths of 380-750 nanometres. She then showed that organic chemistry is based on carbon with 4 bonds and that everything is built up from that [compounded]. The shorthand and longhand way of representing the chemicals form great patterns. As chemicals form longer chains they become visible with colour. Pigments [mineral compounds] are not organic compounds. Dyes are organic compounds whether man made or nature made. She talked about ancient dyes: indigo in plant form is indican, which is colourless, add a base, it ferments, the glucose gets knocked off then with oxidation a pair forms and it becomes a blue dye. Tyrian Purple from shellfish acts similarly [it takes 9300 shellfish to make 1 gram] That explains why purple was the colour of emperors and rulers. Anthroquinone, alizarin and henna are red dyes, saffron a yellow dye [similar in structure to B carotene] were other ancient dyes. The next part was what the dyes acted upon. Plant based; linen, hemp, cotton are based on cellulose [a polymer of glucose] the most abundant organic compound. [The only difference between starch and cellulose is how the glucose molecules are joined.] Animal fibres are protein based. Silk is a protein polymer –a long string of amino acids. Nylon is close in structure to silk. It and rayon when trying to make silk. Cellophane is rayon in a sheet instead of thread. Penny then talked about synthetic dyes. Picric acid was the 1st in 1771 but was highly explosive. In 1956 William Perkin tried to make quinine but discovered a mauve dye instead. He was the 1st to make money. The big 3 German Dye companies were BASF –synthetic alizarin, HOECHST– synthetic alizarin and magenta fuchsine and BAYER –synthetic alizarin. Willow bark provided Salicylic acid, a pain reliever that was very hard on the stomach. Bayer used acetylation to create acetylsalicylic acid ASA, They also made dactyl morphine [to make it less addictive] they called it Heroin [super aspirin]. So the big 3 realized there was more money in drugs than dyes. Mordents grab onto the dye and the fibre. Different mordents give different colours. Bleach may work by breaking the long dye molecule into smaller pieces that are colourless. Too bad she was not my Organic Chem teacher. Maiwa carries her book “*Napoleon’s Buttons: Seventeen Molecules that Changed History*”, *Monica*

CALENDAR

April

Mar 1 to Apr 26 **Kerr Grabowksi** at FibreWorks Gallery , Pender Harbour

Mar 28– Apr 25 **Cherry Blossoms: A Textile Translation”** *fibreEssence* at Mason’s on Fraser St

Mar 26-May 3 **Transformation** at the CraftHouse Gallery Granville Island

Mar 16-May 8 The tapestries of **Hanna Haapasalo** are on display in W Van Municipal Hall,

9 **VGFA meeting 7:00PM**

15 Knitting meeting 7:30PM at Joan Taylor ‘s 1948 Purcell Way, N Van 604-988-1776

15 Sewing Meeting 10AM at Susan James 404-499 Broughton St Van 604-899-5465 susan@alljames.com

23 Executive meeting 7:00PM at Fibre Arts Studio, Granville Island

INTEREST GROUPS

Sew & Sews: Our group is full, and cannot accept new members, but we are happy to help someone start their own group. We meet monthly on the 3rd Wed of every month, at 10AM. We share tips, helpful hints, news, and a pot luck lunch. Please contact Ros Aylmer [rosaqed@shaw.ca] for info.

Coast Character Doll Artists: Contact Doreen Marlor 604 984-8540 for meeting information

Knitting Group: This group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Contact Elizabeth Purves 604-272-5248 burrough@planeteer.com or Y Emmons 604-261-1245

The Vancouver Guild of Fibre Arts invites all fibre artists to:

A Panel on Professional Fibre Practice Thursday, April 9, 2009

(Location: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 154 East 10th Ave, Vancouver. Underground parkade will be opened at 6:00) \$10 entry (refundable with guild membership) (free for current and past VGFA members). Seating is limited.

We are very pleased to welcome professional artists Jane Kenyon, Bettina Matzkuhn, and Katherine Soucis, who will talk about their area of expertise.

Biographies:

Jane Kenyon works in a wide variety of paint and mixed media techniques, but fiber is her passion, and she has explored weaving, dyeing, surface design, and all forms of stitching. Her current work is wall-hangings composed entirely of thread, created with free-motion machine embroidery, *Thread Paintings*. Kenyon sells her artwork through commercial art galleries, and has been represented at SOFA Chicago and Palm Beach 3. Her work can be found in corporate and private collections in Canada and the U.S., the Canada Council Art Bank and Saskatchewan Art Bank collections, and in corporate collections at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in downtown Vancouver and Screening Mammography Centre in N Van.

Bettina Matzkuhn has worked in fibre for 30 years with an emphasis on embroidery and fabric collage. She holds a BFA in Visual Arts and an MA in Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University. In the 1980's she animated and directed three award-winning films using textiles for the National Film Board of Canada and an interest in narrative continues to inform her work. She exhibits her work internationally, writes professionally on the arts, is a presenter at conferences and teaches as a sessional instructor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada

Katherine Soucie is a fresh new clothing and textile artist/designer who studied Fashion Design in London and Toronto before furthering her education in Textiles at Capilano College. Her experimentation over the last few years with non traditional materials and eco friendly textile processes has resulted in an extensive body of work for which she has received of design awards. She has designed for film, television, dance and theatre and has her own clothing line, Sans Soucie, which is exhibited and sold through fine boutiques and galleries throughout Canada, US and Japan. Katherine is the recipient of the BC Creative Achievement Award, 2006 and was short listed for the Niche Award 2007. She most recently received the International Design Green Award for 2008.

These successful businesswomen offer their experiences on the topics described below:

Why write? It's much more fun just to fiddle with textiles. **Bettina** will discuss several aspects of writing that are important to the craft disciplines. She will give you tips on how to get started, how to keep going, and how to tailor, share and enjoy writing! Perhaps even more than the quality of your work, it's the most powerful promotional tool in your sewing basket.

Jane talks about how to research and approach galleries, how to know when you're ready, how I work with an agent, what to expect from galleries and what they should expect from you.

Katherine presents on marketing for artists who produce wearables. how to create a press release, working with PR/media, submitting works to a gallery/boutique/tradeshaw and how to maintain production and demand for one-of-a-kind pieces.

Following their presentations, the artists will be available to answer questions.

Members can reserve their tickets for pickup at the door by emailing gailhunt@shaw.ca

Non-members may send a \$10 cheque (VGFA) to Gail Hunt, #103 - 876 W 16th Ave. Van BC V5Z 1T1 (or drop off at, 1420 Old Bridge St, Granville Is).

For further information: Gail Hunt, Program Chairperson, Vancouver Guild of Fibre Arts: 604-875-1276 (home), 604-684-6661 (studio), gailhunt@shaw.ca.

GUILD WORKSHOPS/ EVENTS

Jan Bednarczyk

Last VGFA WORKSHOP of 2009 !

INTRODUCTION TO PYROTEXTURES by Amanda JS Jones April 25

Referring to a photo-library of textures and using innovative pyro-textile techniques, learn to recreate natural surfaces including wood, stone, lichen, moss, verigris and rusted metal. Such surface textures can form the basis of an artwork or be used for accent and/or embellishment.

The Nuno Corporation of Japan use the term 'Boro Boro' for fabrics that have been subjected to cruel and unusual treatment! We will experiment with a range of fabrics and media that may be new to some of you, or perhaps you've heard and read about them and always wanted to try incorporating them into your artwork. From Lutradur and Sizoflor to plain old brown paper we will create a visually exciting and enticing texture journal.

No previous pyro-experience necessary but thermo-phobics & texto-phobics need not apply.

Cost: Members: \$75.00 + \$20.00 supply fees

Non-Members: \$100 + \$20.00 supply fees.

Location: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 154 East 10th Ave. Van 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

About Amanda: Amanda studied City & Guilds Parts I and II in the UK. She has led workshops in London Knitting and Stitching Show and in Alberta (Old College) and B.C. (Capilano University). For further information contact Amanda : amanda_jones@telus.net

There are only a few spaces left so act quickly!

To register for any of these workshops or for inquiries please contact

Jan Bednarczyk e-mail: bedn9783@telus.net

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Mar 1 to Apr 26 **Kerr Grabowski** will exhibit her work at FibreWorks Gallery in Pender Harbour .
www.gunboatbaylodge.com/fibreworks.

Mar 28-Apr 25 **Cherry Blossoms: A Textile Translation** a *fibreEssence* group show at Mason Sewing Machine Centre, 6184 Fraser St Open Mon– Sat 9am-5pm. 604-327-3800

Mar 26-May 3 **Transformation** Exhibit of artworks made from recycled objects at the CraftHouse Gallery Granville Island www.cabc.net 604-687-651

Mar 16-May 8 The tapestries of **Hanna Haapasalo** are on display in W Van Municipal Hall, 750-17 St, W Van, Mon-Fri: 8:30am-4:30pm. 604. 925.7266.

FROM THE NEWSSTANDS

Anne Love

CLOTH PAPER SCISSORS March/April 2009. The emphasis in this issue is on creating things of found objects or recycled items. Two sisters have an article on their whimsical creations of "Junk" including some doll and doll like figures. Another article on creating custom paper for collage gives me good ideas for an activity with children (of all ages). I knew there were more things one could do with old magazines and phone books! Embossing and stitching on metal, wonderful scrap cats, visual journaling, and flowers of scrap fabric are just a few of the fun projects inside this magazine.

OF INTEREST

Feb 15 - Apr 12 "**Befitting Threads**" New textile works by Anne Marie Andrishak and Jessica Bell at Urbanity in Vancouver's historic Gastown. 207 Abbott St Van 604-801-6262 www.urbanity.ca

As many of you know, the **Hanji B.C.** paper exhibit will be taking place this August at Emily Carr University, and then moving on to the Visual Arts Centre at Port Coquitlam. So here is your chance to get a taste of working with Korean papers, and to meet **Sang Jae Nam**, a well known artist working in this medium

Leigh Square Community Arts Village hosts:

Hanji Korean Paper Presentation and Demonstration

Sat. **Apr 4** 10am-12pm Workroom @ Outlet \$2 The time honored craft of paper making flourished in Asia for over a thousand years. Sang-jae Nam, a visiting textile artist from Wonkwang University, College of Art and Design in Korea will show us new combinations and uses of paper with silk, cotton, and other natural materials in artistic practice.

Hanji Open Studio

Following up on the presentation and demonstration, makers/artists are encouraged to collaborate and share ideas and work in a friendly, experimental environment with Sang-jae Nam.

Sat. **Apr. 18 & 25** 10am-12pm Artist in Residence Room @ Outlet FREE

For further info. and to register call 604-927-8400.www.portcoquitlam.ca/arts.

Address 1100-2253 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam, BC,

RubyDog's Art House is reopening April 1st at 623 Kingsway. 604-873-2825

www.rubydogonline.com **Jesse Reno** is putting on a 2 day **workshop** for RubyDog's. If you are not aware of this amazing, Portland artist, check him out at: www.jessereno.com. The workshop takes place on June 20-21 and the cost is CAD\$250.00. This will be a techniques based class, not a project class. Watch the website for more details.

Lorna Shapiro is a member of the Vancouver Quilters Guild and has recently started a home based business selling two lines of quilting cottons: Bali batiks by Hoffman and Asian fabrics by Kona Bay. For info check www.quiltersdreamfabrics.com

Wed, May 6 - Free Lecture - 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm GVWSG Memorial Lecture

JANE KENYON - Fibre: An Obsession For the past decade, Jane's art medium has been focused on mixed media collage on a hand-dyed textile (usually felt) and embroidery, both hand and machine, to create wall hangings and three-dimensional art. Currently exploring the creation of cloth with stitch only, Thread Paintings, Jane was awarded the 2009 NICHE Award for Surface Design. www.janekenyon.com This lecture is open to all fibre art enthusiasts.

Where: VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St (at 37th Ave), Van

INQUIRIES: www.gvwsg.com, dmrussell@shaw.ca or 604.576.8101

The 10th Annual Gibsons Landing Fibre Arts Festival information is now on the website!

This year we offer 37 workshops – there's something for every level of expertise in a wide range of fibre disciplines. **Workshop Registration opens on April 1st.**

In addition to the Workshop information, right now you'll also find application forms and details on the Juried Exhibit, Merchant Mall, Artisan Market, Festivities in the Landing and all the special events. Check out www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com

If you prefer a printed copy of the brochure, e-mail us at info@gibsonslandingfibrearts.com with your complete mailing address. Or, if you live on the Sunshine Coast, you can pick one up at fabric stores, galleries, libraries or visitor info centres.

.....continued page 7

OF INTEREST

continued from page 6

May 1-3 Make It: Fashion, Art & Craft Market at the Roundhouse Arts Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Van Information: Jenna Herbut, Booty Beltz T 778 233 7468 jenna@makeitproductions.com or jenna@bootybeltz.com www.bootyflybags.com or **Chandler Herbut** chandler@oleoriginals.com T 778 237 6692 **www.makeitproductions.com** Fundraiser: Silent auction proceeds will benefit the BC Cancer Foundation **Open call for fashion and art event exhibitors.**

Unique, ethically made goods from Western Canada's top artisans. Over 55 exhibitors of clothing, art, and home décor and accessories. Free goodie bag to first 25 shoppers each day.

May 17-21 Gail Harker will teach her Level 1 Art & Design: Color Studies certificate course on Salt Spring Island at Stitches Quilt Shop. On 16 will be an exhibit of work by the students from the Salt Spring and a short evening lecture by Gail. For info www.gailcreativestudies.com 360-279-2105

Exhibitions reviewed.....

Virginia Baldwin

Textile Museum of Canada - Current Exhibitions www.textilemuseum.ca

When Women Rule the World - Judy Chicago in Thread - to September 7, 2009

This is a survey of Judy's most compelling work in textiles from 1971 to the present. It consists of 22 well known pieces from the Birth Project(1980-1985), the Holocaust Project (1985-1993) and Resolutions for the Millenium: A Stitch in Time.(1994-2000) and selected additional key pieces. (It is interesting that the Dinner Party (1974-1979) is only mentioned in passing.) This retrospective occupies a whole floor of the museum and is organized by dates with interspersed video loops of the artist/textile process and interaction. Some of the works are monumental - a 234cm x 565cm filet crochet piece "Birth" 1984, and 137cm x 549cm tapestry woven piece "The Fall" 1993. As a tapestry weaver, it was awe-inspiring to see up-close the phenomenal technique of Audrey Cowan, and to read of Judy's debt to Pierre Larochette and Jean Lurcat in the catalogue that accompanied the show. Judy's signature fluid colour shifts and design progressions are evident in all the techniques her textile artists used as she apparently selected the technique for whatever effect she wanted to achieve. A remarkable collection. I noted with interest that the museum shop had made no effort to have a supply of books on tapestry weaving for interested viewers.

She Will Always be Younger Than Us - to September 7, 2009

This is a parallel show that brings together artists whose work counts among its influences the practice of Judy Chicago, especially the freedom to deal with the daily experiences of women. The artists are Orly Cogan, Wednesday Lupypciw, Cat Mazza, Gillian Strong, and Ginger Brooks Takahashi. Based on some of the images produced by these younger artists, we haven't come very far in the types of women's experiences, although Judy helped create the freedom for women to express their reactions to their lives.

The Cutting Edge - to July 7, 2009

This show shares the second floor of the Gallery with She Will Always Be Younger Than Us. This show focuses on the shape of a garment, and what that signifies. It includes items from TMC's collection together with pieces by Issey Miyake, Yoshiki Hishinuma, Rashmi Varma, Yumi Eto, Lyn Carter, and Lily Yung. It points out that the cut of the cloth is not only for functional purposes but makes statements about social standing and economic power.

Workshops at FibreWorks Gallery Pender Harbour

The Painted Book with Martha Cole Combine text and imagery using stitching/collage/multi-media to create hardbound book Mon June 15 to Fri June 19, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Workshop Fee - \$640.00 + \$32.00 GST(supplies extra)

To Register: Call 604-883-2380 or e-mail fibreworks@gunboatbaylodge.com

Visit www.gunboatbaylodge.com for details

BC – Jeonju Hanji Culture Festival – 2009

To be held in collaboration with KOREAN HANJI ARTISANS and the Crafts Association of BC

Fibre,Naturally, at the concourse Gallery at Emily Carr University from Aug 11-16.

The exhibit will also be shown at the Visual Arts Centre in Port Coquitlam and at FibreWorks on the Sunshine Coast for a 3 week period after the initial exhibit.

This promises to be a very prestigious show as the CABC is holding their Gala fundraiser on site during the exhibit; the Canadian Society for Asian Arts is sponsoring a lecture on site, and there will be a choreographed fashion show of stunning paper or paper/fabric garments on the Thursday evening. This is in addition to the many demonstrations of paper techniques by Korean artists, and the Fibre Institute courses being offered by Emily Carr University.

The Korean art of Hanji is a centuries old tradition of making paper with the bark of the mulberry tree. Korean artisans have moved this tradition beyond its original borders, making not only beautiful papers, but also paper yarns, and fabrics using silk, cotton, or linen warp and paper weft. The artists from Jeonju use the Hanji product to make weavings, garments, and traditional and non-traditional items, both 2D and 3D. Working with at least 50% paper of any type, B.C. artists from the VGFA and the GVWSG, as well as fibreEssence, are being invited to submit works for this show. The **submission deadline is June 1**, and the jury fee is \$10 for up to 2 pieces. We are looking for a variety of quality art pieces and garments to exhibit alongside the Korean works.

The Koreans are sending 40 paper garments which will be featured in our extraordinary fashion show. With this in mind we are hoping that members of both Guilds will be inspired to create garments using paper and/or tyvek, or other approved papers, for at least 50% of the garment. We have been asked if the lining may be fabric, or if it counts as part of the 50% rule. The committee has decided that if the lining is unseen when the garment is worn, it will not be counted against the paper content of the item. Similarly, if a hanging or other piece requires backing that is not seen when the piece is displayed, that material will also not be weighed against the paper content.

The submission info and entry forms can be found at www.vgfa.org or check <http://vgfa.blogspot.com>

We will be asking for **volunteers** in various areas: There will be lots to do to make this a success, so tell us what you would like to do and believe me, we will welcome you with open arms!

* Gallery sitters for the week of August 11 – 16 at ECU Signup lists will be at the Guild meetings.

* Opportunity to offer a Homestay to Hanji Artists!! We are looking for a few homes to house 10 Korean Hanji artists August 8th through the 13th and on Aug. 16th. We would prefer that you are close to or on a good bus route to Granville Island as they will be demonstrating there each day. You would probably give them breakfast and an occasional dinner. If you have a guest room and would be willing to have a guests for the above times, please contact Joanne Waters, 604, 922-3608 or watersjoanne@hotmail.com.

*We are compiling a list of display materials/props/etc. that would be available for the week on a loaner basis. We need rolling garment racks, display stands, plinths, acrylic risers and cases. If you have anything, we would be pleased to add it to our inventory list, as we won't know exactly what we will need until June! So please let Cathie Barr know what you have that we might find useful. cabarr@shaw.ca

Contacts: Ros Aylmer rosaqed@shaw.ca, Anni Hunt annihunt@mac.com, Catherine Barr cabarr@shaw.ca

CALLS FOR ENTRY

Deadline: June 19, 2009 FibreWorks Gallery **CONTAINERS** [Jun 28 -Aug 15,] Webster's Dictionary describes a "container" as a carton, crate, jar, bottle, etc., for receiving and holding something. Create a "container" to receive or hold something precious, something ordinary, something outrageous. Info and entry forms at fibreworks@gunboatbaylodge.com. www.gunboatbaylodge.com/fibreworks.html 604-883-2380



FIBRE IN THE FOREST....FORTY YEARS

VGFA 40TH ANNIVERSARY RETREAT

MARCH 29- APRIL 9, 2010

Mark you calendars: **March 29 - April 9, 2010** at the Loon Lake Camp. This is a spectacular forest venue located in Maple Ridge which is the UBC Research Forestry Camp. For information on the site go to: www.loonlake.ubc.ca. Get away from everything and play with fibers in the company of friends!

Workshops: We will be offering up to 5 simultaneous workshops at this site over the 12 days of this special anniversary celebration. Details of exact courses to be offered and registration forms will be available next month. In the meantime I can tell you that we will be offering workshops from the following instructors: Nancy Crow, Jane Dunnewold, Michele Whiplinger, Jeanette deNicolis Meyer, Shannon Wardroper, Angelica Werth, Barbara Shelly, Elfreda Russel, Paula Grasdahl, Hilary Young, Barb Depirro, Gaye Hansen, Julie Pongra, Ros Alymer.

Costs: We are finalizing the costs but we can tell you that the costs for workshops will be \$100/day (regardless of the instructor) and the cost for room and all food will be somewhere in the range of \$85-\$100/day (depending upon the number of people sleeping in the room).

To express interest and for further information about the **Nancy Crow** workshops planned for 2010 please contact Susan Lum: susanL@concertproperties.com phone: 604 708-5131. For all other inquiries contact Jan Bednarczyk: bedn9783@telus.net

MAIWA TEXTILE SYMPOSIUM

Fall 2009

Every two years the **Maiwa Textile Symposium** is held in Vancouver BC.

It is an event of interest to anyone who likes to make fibre (weave, knit, felt), dye it with anything, work its surface, embellish it, mangle/scrunch/clamp it, collect it, write about it, learn about it, or just plain revel in it. While Maiwa runs a series of excellent workshops every fall, the Symposium occurs on a two-year basis.

The theme this year is **“Every thread has its story.”** Craft practitioners and knowledgeable speakers are coming from all over the world to bring us their techniques and wisdom. As a volunteer, workshop addict, and sponge of a listener, I want to share what is happening with you so that maybe you will come and meet other, equally afflicted, fibre junkies. Registration is in June but in May the symposium calendar with full information will be posted on the website: www.maiwa.com.

Dyeing at the Maiwa Textile Symposium & Workshops

In the Maiwa Textile Symposium this fall there is going to be a joyous abundance of workshops and talks related to getting colour onto fibre. If you are new to dyeing, there will be a two-day ‘Introduction to Dyes’ workshop. This is a hands-on workshop which covers the basics of fibre-reactive, acid, and natural dyes and is good for someone interested in dyeing yarns, fleece/roving, or fabric. Ann Johnston, well known fibre artist from Oregon and author of *Colour by Accident*, *Colour by Design*, *Dye Painting*, and *The Quilter’s Book of Design* will be doing two workshops. The two-day ‘Colour by Accident’ workshop

.....continued page 10

MAIWA TEXTILE SYMPOSIUM

continued

focuses on low immersion dyeing but she will go beyond her book of that name. Ann's 'Dyed to Clamp' workshop will use low immersion dyeing combined with clamping, folding, wrinkling, and over-dye techniques to produce cloth unique to you.

Michele Wipplinger's very popular 'Colour Institute' is expanded to five days this year. Michele, owner of Earhues in Seattle, explores colour theory and its history, engaging this with practical applications for textile designers and artists, regardless of medium. A thorough and advanced workshop for those interested in precision dyeing is Carol Soderlund's 'Colour Mixing for Dyers'. Carol, from Geneva NY, is a well-known colourist whose quilts have won several prizes. Over the five days, you will engage in many colour exercises and relate them to your own work. Sharing the results, each student will build a sample book of more than 1,000 dye swatches.

When it comes to natural dyes, this year's symposium is truly inspired. Charlotte Kwon, owner of Maiwa, principal of the Maiwa Foundation, textile filmmaker, and winner of awards for her ethical and socially responsible business practices will again offer her four day 'Natural Dyes' workshop. Contributing to an international revival of natural dyeing, Charlotte travels all over the world, researching natural dyes and teaching dye classes. This course covers the complete process of dyeing with vegetable and insect dyes: scouring and mordanting the cloth, making the dye bath, and dyeing the fibres in several ways. More than 80 rich colours will be achieved. Students will take home an instruction binder with samples and a project completed in class. As well, this year there are four special natural dye workshops. Kikuo Morimoto, winner of the 2004 Rolex Award for Enterprise for his work in reviving Cambodian textile traditions, is coming from the Institute for Khmer Traditional Textiles to teach a two-day workshop on Khmer natural dyeing. This will be a great opportunity to work alongside someone who has been a principal researcher and activist in the revival of Cambodian traditional dyeing and weaving. Mr. Morimoto will also give a talk on the story of the IKTT and the village he is instrumental in establishing, wherein the villagers will grow the dyes, cotton, and silk to support their own weaving and dyeing workshops. And as a special event this year there will also be an exhibition of Cambodian Ikat.

Vivien Prideaux, author of *A Handbook of Indigo Dyeing* is coming from the UK to teach two workshops on dyeing with indigo. The three-day workshop, 'Indigo: The Natural Vat', will introduce students to both the "bio" and "zink lime" natural fermentation vats. Her second workshop, (two days) 'Indigo, Shibori, and Beyond' will use the natural fermentation vat for dyeing the fabric prepared through shibori and other resist methods, but will then explore over-dyeing these articles in fibre reactive dyes. Both these workshops will be a new departure even for those with previous indigo experience. As well, Henri Lambert is coming from France to teach a two-day workshop on dyeing blue using woad. Students will learn how to start a woad vat, troubleshoot problems, and dye using procedures specific to this plant dye. In the evening Denise Lambert will tell the fascinating history of woad and of how she and Henri came to develop their company, Bleu de Letoure, which uses woad in everything from cosmetics to car paints.

And finally, also coming from France is Dominique Cardon, scientist-historian with formidable expertise in the field of ancient textiles and natural dyes. One of only two archaeological textile specialists in France, her research has been wide ranging — from the Chinese to the Peruvian, from Neolithic textiles to the creation of a contemporary idiom. She has studied the dyes of medieval Europe, relic wrappings from mountain churches in the south of France, textiles from Roman sites on caravan roads in Egypt, natural dyes in silk and vegetable fibre in Madagascar, Maori dyes, etc. If you are interested in natural dyes you are probably familiar with her almost 800-page volume on the topic, *Natural Dyes: Sources, Traditions, Technology and Science*. She will give a lecture and teach a two-day workshop.

Well, that's it. There was no way to keep this report short, given the depth and range of dye workshops and talks planned for this fall. For more information on the Maiwa Symposium, see www.maiwa.com. Overall this year, there will be 38 workshops, 14 lectures, and 5 special events. Symposium details will be posted in May, but you can also get on the Maiwa mailing list to receive a hard copy of the Symposium brochure. See the website. Next time I'll talk about "Working the Surface".