



AMERICAN TAPESTRY ALLIANCE

## **American Tapestry Alliance 2012-2013 Annual Report**

The fiscal year of 2012-13 can be best summarized as another year of health and steady growth for the American Tapestry Alliance. Our organization continues to experience an increase in membership, which stimulates growth in workshop and exhibition opportunities and enriched services to members.

### **Membership**

ATA extends sincere thanks to retiring Board member Diane Wolf for her exceptional warmth and dedicated service to growing our membership throughout tough economic times. We concluded our fiscal year with a membership of 617 friends of tapestry from 44 states and 15 countries. We heartily welcome volunteer member Pat Dunston as she fills the newly vacated Board seat of Membership Chair.

### **Treasurer/Financial**

ATA's financial health remains sound thanks to the generosity of our members and the wise council and professional skills of our financial team, Board Treasurer Rosalee Skrenes, assisted by member volunteer Marcia Ellis. The Board has approved the budget for fiscal year 2013-14. It is based on retention of current membership, a modest growth of new membership, an increase in exhibition entries, continued response to the Annual Appeal, and a conservative allocation of funds.

### **Fundraising**

To date, ATA has only one active arm of fundraising, the Annual Valentines Day Appeal to membership for voluntary donations. This year a record 154 members responded to the Appeal for donations totaling \$5705.00. Work is in progress to raffle a donated tapestry by member Jane Kidd as our 2014 fundraising outreach activity. ATA would well benefit from an advising member with professional fundraising expertise.

### **Exhibition Programming**

We are our exhibitions. They are ATA's calling card in the world and we are constantly striving to secure strong, high profile venues that will powerfully showcase our members' work and attract new and different audiences to tapestry. Margo Macdonald assumed the demanding Board position of Exhibition Chair and was immediately put to the test by securing two new venues for STI 3, after both of the original contracted exhibition venues backed out.

HONORING TRADITION, INSPIRING INNOVATION

**Small Tapestry International 3: *Outside the Line***, opened at the Handforth Gallery in Tacoma, WA, June 12-Aug 31, 2013 and traveled to the Troy Hayner Cultural Center in Troy, OH, Sept 27-Dec 1. Summarizing the events of the **American Tapestry Biennial 9**: It was necessary for the Board to educate the staff of the Fort Wayne Art Museum to ensure that all of the ATB 9 accepted entries were exhibited. This was following the exhibition's successful run in Fall 2012 at the Dairy Barn in Athens, OH.

ATA is honored to announce that Jessica Hemmings, esteemed professor of Visual Culture and Head of the Faculty of Visual Culture at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin, Ireland will be the juror for **American Tapestry Biennial 10**. Ms. Hemmings studied Textile Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. The location of HGA's Convergence 2014 was very late in being announced, so when outstanding exhibition venues in other parts of the country indicated an interest in ATB 10 we contracted them: ATB 10 will open at Visions Museum in San Diego, CA, May 2-July 20, 2014 and then travel to Kent State in Ohio, Sept 25-Jan 4, 2015.

When HGA announced that Convergence 2014 would be in Providence RI, former Board member Jan Austin immediately hit the ground running and found a Convergence compatible venue for the unjuried small format exhibit. **UNTITLED/UNJURIED: small format tapestry 2014** will hang from July 8 – August 8, 2014 at the University of Rhode Island Feinstein Providence Campus Gallery, in Providence, Rhode Island.

ATA's online exhibition program, **TEEx@ATA** is strong, offering shows based on a theme, or presenting the work of a single artist. This year we mounted *Dancing Colors*, an exhibition of Audrey Moore's tapestries, followed by Anne Jackson's evocative contribution entitled *Slow Cloth*. The **Laffer Curatorial Program**, a program within TEEx@ATA, funded by a generous donation, offers larger stipends to outstanding curators who are interested in designing an exhibition of the highest caliber. Curator Susan Iverson brought us *Public/Private Moments*, featuring the work of tapestry weaver Erin Riley, which launched the LCP's online exhibition for the year. All shows were characterized by a tight cohesive theme highlighting artists who not only exhibit technical and aesthetic excellence in the tapestry medium, but also stretch the definition of tapestry.

### **Education Programming**

Becky Stevens continues to oversee and advise as the Board Chair of the Education Committee, a member's benefit critical to our organizational mission. Shelly Socolofsky, faculty member at the Oregon College of Arts & Crafts, taught our 2013 workshop, **Traces, Layers, Narratives & Surfaces**, in Tacoma, WA at Pacific Lutheran University in conjunction with the STI 3 exhibition at Handforth Gallery. The workshop, which filled quickly, investigated the possibilities of narrative as a storytelling mode enriched through personal symbolism made complex through the use of richly layered surfaces with transparency and depth, focusing on Photoshop as a design tool. Shelley also spoke at the opening of Small Tapestry International 3. There were 60 – 70 people in attendance.

**Members Retreat 2014:** Mary Lane reports that both Marcel Marois and Helena Hernmarck have accepted the invitation to teach. The contract with the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, as hosting venue is in process.

**Online Educational Articles:** Many thanks to Lyn Hart for her years of dedicated and able work as chair of Educational Articles. Lyn has retired and applications for a new chair are currently being reviewed. The newest submissions to ATA's Educational Articles were the papers presented at the Textile Society of America's Fall 2012 Symposium in an ATA panel presentation coordinated by Christine Laffer entitled [\*Political Strings: Tapestry Seen and Unseen\*](#).

The papers were authored by:

Stanley Bulbach: [Invisible Tapestry — An Assyriologist's Perspective](#)

Linda Rees: [Towards a Proactive Outreach](#)

Clara Román-Odio: [Colonial Legacies and the Politics of Weaving in Consuelo Jiménez Underwood's Fiber Art](#)

Linda Wallace and Dorothy Clews: [On the Edge: The Artwork of Linda Wallace and Dorothy Clews](#)

**Helping Hands** chaired by Traudi Bestler has five mentor/student pairs. **Distance Learning**, chaired by Barbara Heller had five active and eight completed pairs of mentors and students.

Both Helping Hands and Distance learning are a benefit of Circle membership

**Interweaving Cultures: The Meeting**, an international symposium and gathering of weavers, co-sponsored by ATA, took place at [Museo Textil de Oaxaca](#) (MTO), Mexico, January 18-19, 2013. It was followed by a week long weaving opportunity for 12 ATA members paired to work with prominent Zapotec weavers from the legendary weaving village of Teotitlan del Valle. The objective of Interweaving Cultures: The Meeting was to exhibit tapestries, discuss issues regarding personal processes of creation and diffusion of tapestry work and build relationships. All participants filled out an extensive evaluation of the events after this first initiative and all unanimously reported it to be personally valuable and a great success, offering excellent suggestions for improvement of logistical details.

## Communications

ATA celebrated Carolyn Furnish as our incoming **Tapestry Topics** editor. We look forward to the stability and direction Carolyn will lead this important tapestry publication, hoping to broaden the base of our readership through her leadership.

**eNews** continues to keep us all updated, coming regularly to member's inboxes thanks to the efficiency of Mary Lane. Longtime **eKudos** editor Merna Strauch has retired from her volunteer position, and we welcome Sherri Woodard Coffey as her successor.

2013 saw the birth of **ATA-Talk**, a membership list whose origins sprang from the desires of an ATA sponsored Business of Weaving Online Study Group. ATA-Talk offers interested membership a format for lively, evocative and sometimes controversial open discussion and sharing of news. The

approximately 170 digests constitute a highly informative repository of ATA members' ideas and responses. The project seems clearly capable of thriving without being a strain on ATA's limited resources. It affords the new benefits of almost instantly sharing information about upcoming events, projects and member services. It also strengthens the ties between ATA's domestic membership and its large international membership. Ata-talk illustrates the wide rich spectrum of interests, experience, goals, and perspectives of ATA's membership. It has also documented strongly expressed understandings pro and con about definition, vision, wishes and needs.

## **Awards**

Under the capable chairmanship of Board member Tal Landeau and long time volunteer Elisabeth Quick, ATA continues to support the growth and expression of talent in the field of tapestry through several channels of recognition.

The **2013 International Student Award** was presented to Sabrina Niebler, who is currently completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary. There were 6 entries from 3 countries for this award this year, juried by Elisabeth Quick, Margo Macdonald, Deborah Johnson and Jane Kidd.

The **ATA Award for Excellence in Tapestry** was awarded to two individuals exhibiting in two uniquely different qualifying exhibitions featuring work in tapestry. Urban Jupena received the ATA Award for Excellence for his tapestry, "Spark, Blaze, Afterglow", exhibited in *Woven Together: Firestorm*, June 21 – August 3, 2013, at the Business Art Center in Manitou Springs, CO. Pat Williams received the award for her tapestry "Failure to Communicate" exhibited in *Threads of Life*, which took place April 18 – June 8, 2013 at the Quinlan Center for Visual Arts, Gainesville, GA, organized by [Tapestry Weavers South](#).

The **Teitelbaum Awards** are monetary awards that are presented to two artists accepted into ATA's American Tapestry Biennial and Small Tapestry International exhibitions, made possible by a generous grant from the Teitelbaum Trust Legacy Gift to ATA. Teitelbaum Award Winners selected by juror Hesse McGraw for *Small Tapestry International 3: Outside the Line* were Taeyoun Kim, "This is not a plastic bag," First Place Award and Michael Rohde, "Disjunction," Second Place Award. Teitelbaum Award Winners for American Tapestry Biennial 9 awarded by juror Lee Talbot were Ruth Jones, First Place Award, "Sunia," and Linda Wallace, Second Place Award, "DisConnect."

**ATA Scholarship for Tapestry Study** is awarded to an ATA member who wishes to pursue study in the field of tapestry weaving. Our 2012 Scholarship was awarded to Carolyn Furnish to attend the October 2012 *Weaving It Your Way: An Advanced Tapestry Weaving Workshop* taught by Tommye Scanlin and Pat Williams at Sutherland Handweaving Studio, Asheville, NC. The deadline for application for future ATA Scholarships has been changed to February 1.

## **Emerge: Membership Grants for New & Emerging Artists**

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, ATA is able to subsidize memberships for new and emerging, young tapestry artists. Jennifer Galliot received the first Emerge membership grant in

September 2012. A weaver in Newfoundland, Canada, Jennifer looks forward to the connection that the ATA network will give her to other tapestry weavers. Application criteria for this grant have changed and young is now defined as no older than 40 years of age. There is also no longer an image requirement. The next deadline for the award is September 1, 2013.

### **Publications Management**

Lois Hartwig continues to oversee this volunteer driven committee, keeping a watchful eye on exhibition catalog production and fine tuning our tracking systems which aid in monitoring all retail items, such as our catalog inventory and ATA membership pins.

### **Promotions**

Our Canadian Board member, Elaine Duncan, continues to publicize ATA through magazine submissions, Facebook, and Tapestry of the Day, complemented by eKudos and eNews. As tapestry weavers we recognize that the heavy lifting of education and publicity about our work rests squarely on the shoulders of each individual artist. ATA has built a functional infrastructure to assist in supporting the local, regional and national efforts & exhibitions of our contemporary membership.

### **Summary**

As can be seen from the foregoing list of activities and accomplishments, your American Tapestry Alliance is on sound footing and proceeding on a path guided by our members. Needless to say, none of this would have been, or will continue to be possible, without the generous support of our members, both financially and more importantly, with volunteer efforts. We dedicate this report to all our loyal and sustaining members.