



AMERICAN TAPESTRY ALLIANCE

2013-14 Annual Report

ATA completes another strong and vital year, impressively in the black, with new members, new exhibitions, additional workshops, programs and publications. We have a dedicated, conservative and stable board, an outstanding and capable Executive Administrator, and a loyal and giving team of volunteers that drive your virtual organization forward.

Membership

Under the care of Membership Committee Chair, Pat Dunston, we have 633 members from 27 countries. (6/2014)

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, and Assistant Treasurer, Marcia Ellis. The budget for fiscal year 2014-15 has been drafted and approved by the Board. 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 conservative allocation of funds.

Fundraising

This year ATA's sole fundraising initiative took the form of a raffle rather than a direct ask for financial support. The raffle was inspired by Jane Kidd's generous contribution of her tapestry, "Imprimus," along with 10 fabulous donations of tapestry related items from the weaving community. Many thanks to Deb Santolla, who solicited the additional donations. As of June 2014 the total raised through the purchase of raffle tickets and donations is \$5,465.00. The raffle will continue through Convergence and winners will be announced in late July. We continue to search for an advising member with professional fundraising expertise to assist the organization in its growth. Rosalee Skrenes, Marcia Ellis and Mary Lane have handled all aspects of the raffle.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions continue to be a driving force for membership and the reflection of who we are and how we are perceived. They are ATA's obvious business card to the world and we are constantly striving to secure strong, high profile venues that will powerfully showcase contemporary tapestry and attract new and different audiences. Board member and Exhibition Committee Chair, Margo Macdonald, along with her committee members, continue the challenging volunteer work of securing exhibition venues and overseeing all aspects of our shows.

American Tapestry Biennial 10

From 118 artists who submitted 230 tapestries, juror Jessica Hemmings, Professor of Visual Culture and Head of the Faculty of Visual Culture at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin chose 37 tapestries, representing 12 countries. Exhibition Co-Chairs Rebecca Mezoff and Connie Lippert are coordinating the running of the exhibition and Cornelia Theimer Gardella is responsible for the stunning catalog design. The exhibition opened at Visions Art Museum in San Diego (May 2-July 20) and will travel to Kent State University Museum in Kent, Ohio (September 25-January 4) and to Kaneko in

Omaha, Nebraska (February 6-April 24, 2015.)

Small Tapestry International 4: Honoring Tradition/Inspiring Innovation will be juried by Kevin Wallace, Director of the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai, California. It will travel to Northwestern State University Natchitoches, Louisiana (June 8–August 15, 2015), Biggs Museum of Art, Dover, Delaware (October 2–November 22, 2015) and Artspace, Raleigh, North Carolina (January 16–March 5, 2016). The Exhibition Chair is Pamela Done.

TEEx@ATA

ATA's excellent online exhibition programming offers a variety of shows based on a theme, or the work of a single artist. This year we featured:

- *Responding to Julia Mitchell's Tapestries*, Micala Sidore, Curator
- *Down South: Tapestry in Australia*, Sara Lindsay, Laffer Curator
- *In the Heart of Europe: Hungarian Tapestry Art*, Edit András, Laffer Curator

Untitled Unjuried: small format tapestry 2014

Jan Austin, Exhibition Chair, received 241 entries for ATA's popular unjuried small format exhibition. The show will hang at the University of Rhode Island Feinstein Providence Campus Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island during Convergence 2014. The exhibition catalog was designed by Lindsey Marshall.

Education Programing

ATA salutes former Co-Director and Education Committee Chair, Becky Stevens, for her many years of dynamic and outstanding service on the Board of ATA. Barb Brophy will be assuming Becky's responsibilities as Education Committee Chair.

Creative Capital, ATA's 2014 Members Retreat, follows Convergence, offering workshops taught by tapestry luminaries Marcel Marois and Susan Martin Maffei.

Educational Articles

The newest additions to ATA's excellent library of Educational Articles include:

- *The Tapestry Diary: It's About Time*, written by Janette Meetze
- *The Student Perspective* written by Sharon Hogg, Margaret Jones, Sabrina Niebler

Tapestry Instruction

The Helping Hands program continues to be overseen by volunteer Chair, Traudi Bestler. Four mentor/student teams worked together this year.

The Distance Learning program taken over from Barbara Heller and now chaired by Terri Stewart has had two mentor/student weaving teams. Both Helping Hands and Distance Learning are a benefit of Circle membership.

Newsletter

ATA thanks Carolyn Furnish for her service and contribution to **Tapestry Topics** and welcomes Pat Williams to the helm as newsletter editor. This is a critical volunteer position and we look forward to the voice and direction Pat will offer this important publication. Pat is assisted by changing Theme Coordinators, Robbie Lafleur, Copy Editor, Kimberly Brandel, Layout and Katzy Luhring, Proofreader.

eNews and eKudos continues to be a popular member service, keeping us all updated, arriving regularly in members Inboxes thanks to Sherri Woodard Coffey and Mary Lane.

ATA-Talk

Now in its 2nd year, Talk continues to offer interested membership a format for lively, evocative and sometimes controversial open discussion and sharing of news. Discussions have leveled off from the initial flurry of curiosity and criticism, springing up spontaneously on an "on need" basis. Interested members contribute as their time and interests dictate. Christine Laffer, Stanley Bulbach and Linda Rees manage ATA-Talk.

Artist Pages

We now have almost 100 artists represented in the Artist Pages section of our website. These pages are popular and well travelled online destinations. To keep an Artist Page on the ATA website one must maintain membership at the Studio Circle level.

CODA: Tapestry Art Today

ATA proudly published the first digest of highlighted articles from ATA's quarterly newsletter, *Tapestry Topics*, thanks to the volunteer editorial team of Margaret Sunday and Dorothy Clews. CODA, which will be produced every other year, features the words and work of contemporary tapestry artists around the world, with images and articles presenting a broad spectrum of perspectives on the art as it is celebrated today. This publication is available to anyone through our website and was sent to ATA's extensive promotional mailing list.

Awards

ATA extends great appreciation to retiring board member, Tal Landeau, who is handing over her duties as Awards Committee Chair to Kimberly Brandel. This is a busy and very visible committee as it works in conjunction with both our exhibition and educational programming offering many awards in the field of tapestry nationally and internationally.

The **2014 International Student Award** was presented to Christine Thomson, who is currently completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) in Calgary, Alberta.

This year's **ATA Award for Excellence** awardees are:

- Evelyn Campbell for her tapestry "Sandhill Cranes over Pajarito Acres," exhibited in *Celebration of Fiber*, during Intermountain Weavers Conference held at Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado, July, 2013.
- Kathe Todd-Hooker for her tapestry "Pax Chene" exhibited in *Coastal Fiberarts* 2013 at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, OR, July 18 – August 18, 2013.
- Nancy Jackson for her tapestry "Lakota Creation Myth II" exhibited in *Tapestries Alight on the Central Coast*, hosted by the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art from November 23-December 29, 2013.

Teitelbaum Award Winners for American Tapestry Biennial 10 were First Place Award winner, Anna Olsson "Where have you been living since we last met? Here and there" and Second Place Award winner, Elke Otte Hulse "Tempos Heterogeneos 2."

Elizabeth Buckley received the **ATA Scholarship for Tapestry Study**. She received financial support to attend *Desert Horizons*, Joan Baxter's workshop at Ghost Ranch from September 22-27 in New Mexico.

Laura Hodgdon was awarded the **Emerge Membership Grant for New and Emerging Artists**. Laura received her BFA at Oregon College of Arts and Craft. The ATA membership will help Laura learn more about the organization, other artists, opportunities, and expand her skills within a large community of tapestry artists. **Emerge Grant** winners chose an ATA Committee with which to volunteer. Laura will be working on the ATA website with the TEx Gallery shows.

Publications Management

Lois Hartwig oversees catalog production, manages catalog inventory and fine-tunes our tracking systems, which aid in monitoring all retail items. Lois also handles the shipping of catalogs. The end of the fiscal year drama was a necessary reprint of both the ATB 10 catalog and the catalog for UNTITLED/UNJURIED. Both catalogs arrived with defects and Lois's professional communications with the printers led to free reprints for both catalogs.

Promotions

Long term Board member Elaine Duncan has retired from her many years of service to ATA and the Promotions Committee is now led by volunteer Julia Rhoden, a recent graduate with a degree in Apparel and Merchandising from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. We are thrilled to have a recent graduate on the team publicizing ATA through magazine submissions, press releases and social media, Facebook, and Tapestry of the Day, complemented by eKudos and eNews.