

American Tapestry Alliance, Inc. Annual Report 2018 – 2019



AMERICAN TAPESTRY ALLIANCE

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Cover Image
from Tapiserije: The Art of Atelje 61 in Vojvodina, Serbia, a 2018 TEX@ATA online exhibition curated by
Ulrikka Molded

Board of Directors



Left to right, top to bottom:
Susan Iverson, Director at Large (President); Tommye Scanlin, Director at Large; Terry Olson, Director of Education;
Nicki Bair, Director of Promotions; Pat Dunston, Director of Membership (Secretary);
Regina Dale, Director of Finance (Treasurer); Louise Halsey, Director of Exhibitions (resigned 2018)
Dorothy Clews, Director of Awards; Lisa Almeida, Director of Exhibitions (March 2019)

Staff



Mary Lane
Executive Director



Rachel Fesperman
Assistant to the Director



Maggie Leininger
Administrative Manager

Board News

Staff

Maggie Leininger, an artist, educator and arts administrator from Illinois, joins us as the new Administrative Manager. Mary Lane became ATA's first paid staff member in 2009 and has retired from her position as Executive Director. Rachel Fesperman, Assistant to the Director, left this position at the end of June to return to her studies.

New & Retiring Board Members

Many thanks to retiring Board members, Pat Dunston, long time Director of Membership and Louise Halsey, Director of Exhibitions. We welcome our newly elected Director of Membership, Ginger Thomas and our recently appointed Director of Exhibitions, Lisa Almeida.



Ginger Thomas
Director of Membership

Ginger Thomas lives in Florida and has experience with nonprofits, grant writing, fundraising, outreach and advocacy. Her career in systems engineering, design basis calculations and radiation dose reconstruction in the nuclear industry, has given her the necessary skills for record keeping, membership logs and troubleshooting. Ginger takes a creative approach to problem-solving. She is also an inventive and accomplished tapestry weaver.

Lisa Almeida lives and weaves in New Hampshire. She brings more than two decades of entrepreneurial experience to the Board of Directors as a marketing coach and consultant who has worked with solo-preneurs to multi-million-dollar

corporations. She is a member of Tapestry Weavers in New England (TWiNE) and a juried member of New Hampshire Valley Artisans.

There is currently one open position on the Board of Directors. We are searching for a candidate for the newly created position of Director of Volunteers. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Tommye Scanlin at nominations@americantapestryalliance.org.

Board Meeting

ATA's Board of Directors gathered in Portland, Oregon for a long weekend of productive meetings and lively discussions in May of 2019. Lisa Almeida, Nicki Bair, Regina Dale, Susan Iverson, Terry Olson, Tommye Scanlin, Ginger Thomas and Maggie Leininger attended in person and were joined electronically by Dorothy Clews. This has been a year of transitions and the Board took a hard look at the current and future needs of the organization. The Board determined that some structural changes needed to occur and to that end a new Director of Volunteers was created and the duties of the vacant positions of Director of Communications and the Director of Fundraising were rolled into the job descriptions of other positions. We are happy to report that ATA is financially healthy, has a growing membership and that our programming continues to be both broad and excellent. The wonderful dedication of our many volunteers guarantees that these programs will continue to thrive.



Downtown Portland, 2019



From left to right: Susan Iverson, Terri Olson, Tommie Scanlin, Maggie Leininger, Regina Dale, Nicki Bair, Lisa Almeida, and Ginger Thomas

Board Advisors

The Board members are thankful for the wise advice supplied by our two Board Advisors, who are former board members. This year long-time advisor Becky Stevens stepped down from the position and we welcome Jan Austin, who joins long-time volunteer, Joan Griffin.

Members

We are pleased to report that the membership of ATA has passed the milestone number of 1,000 this year! Membership increased by almost 15% in the last year. Director of Membership, Pat Dunston, was proud to reach this goal in her last year on the Board. People join ATA for many reasons, and we have programming that addresses the needs of this broad membership.

1,002 members

31 countries

17% of our members live in a country other than the United States

24% of our members are Circle level members

Benefits of Membership

The list of benefits for members is long and includes Tapestry Topics, access to ATA-Talk and Let's Talk Tapestry, social media spotlights on our Circle members who have Artist Pages or teach tapestry, discounts from related businesses and enhanced information on the website.



Bernie Dignam, Here and (T)Here post card to Marlena Rogers, 4" x 6"

This year we increased the number of businesses who offer discounts to ATA members. We also launched the **Here and (T)Here** postcard exchange and online exhibition for members which continues into 2018/19.

Artist Pages



Tea Okropiridze, "Decorative Still Life" (2002), 25" x 19.5"

The Artist Pages continue to be a visually exciting section of the ATA website and an important perk for our members. 123 tapestry weavers are represented on the website and many update their images every year. Open to all visitors, this site shows a diverse range of work that exemplifies the field of contemporary tapestry. Having an Artist Page is a wonderful benefit of the Circle level memberships.

Awards

Supporting excellence in tapestry and encouraging educational opportunities in the tapestry field are cornerstones of ATA's mission. Director of Awards, Dorothy Clews, manages the following awards that provide recognition and/or financial assistance to fulfill these goals and encourage tapestry weavers at all levels.

International Student Award

This award, which encourages the study of tapestry in a college program at the undergraduate or graduate level, was granted to Lena Schwartz from the United States. Lena studies at Skidmore College.



*Lena Ruth Schwartz
"Georgian Bay," 25.5" x 26.25", 2019
Photo: Jill LeVine. Cotton warp, wool weft.*

Award for Excellence

The Award for Excellence recognizes tapestries that an exhibition juror selects for achieving excellence in design, creative imagery, technical execution and the use of color. This year's awardees are:

- Karen Leckart
- Mimi Rodes
- Rebecca Smith
- Maree Liddington



*Karen Leckart
"Reverie"
8.5" X 9"*

Wedge weave woven tapestry using cotton twine warp and silk, cotton, wool and metallic weft yarns.

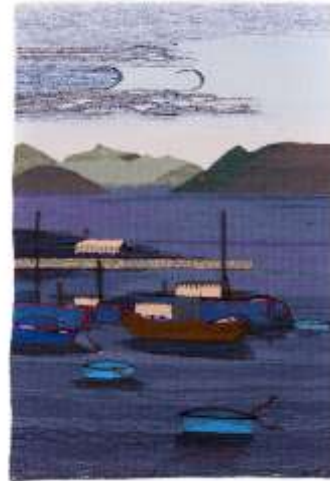


*Mimi Rodes
"Sunset I", 2019
9" x 14"*

Hand dyed and spun yarns with minimal commercial wool yarn.



Rebecca Smith "Mother", 2018 8" x 8" Cotton warp, wool weft



*Maree Liddington
"Vietnam Reflections", 2018
620 mm x 930 mm
Cotton warp, wool weft.*

People's Choice Award

This award, offered for the first time in conjunction with World Tapestry Now, was awarded to:

- Nora Tapai.

Weaving the Future

This grant supports having opportunities for children and training in tapestry weaving for teachers and others who will, in turn, teach weaving to children. This year's grants were awarded to:

- Victoria Olsen: to teach 12 - 15 teachers tapestry techniques that they can pass on to their students in the classroom.
- Francis-Dance Doyle-Miller: to teach children basic tapestry.



Francis-Dance Doyle-Miller Weaving the Future in action.

Teitelbaum Awards

The Teitelbaum Awards are made possible by a generous grant from the Teitelbaum Trust legacy gift to ATA. They are presented to artists accepted into the American Tapestry Biennial or Small Tapestry International exhibitions.

World Tapestry Now (ATB 12) First Place was awarded to Barbara Heller for "Tzimtzum - Transcendence" and Second Place was awarded to Anne Stabell for "Summer in the Woods".

Small Tapestry International 6: Beyond the Edge First Place was awarded to Rebecca Mezoff for "Displaced: Refugee Blanket" and Second Place was awarded to Valerie Kirk for "Water Use of Plants".

Painter Brown Scholarship Fund

This scholarship, for study in the field of tapestry and based on financial need, had no applicants this year.

Emerge Award

This membership award program recognizes university students who have a strong interest in tapestry and are recommended by their professors.

This year's awards went to:

Laney Engle from Virginia Commonwealth University, nominated by Prof. Aaron McIntosh



Laney Engle
"Grand Lake O' The Cherokees, Bernice, OK,"
1' 6" x 2', 2018
Linen warp and acrylic/wool weft.

Jackie Buchheit from the University of Missouri, nominated by Prof. C. Pazia Mannella



*Jackie Buchheit
Dealing with the Senses
20" x 20", 2019
Cotton, wool, and synthetic yarns.*

Sarah Virginia Rupp from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, nominated by Prof. Danielle Andress



*Sarah Rupp
"Hoosier Hat,"
21" x 20", 2018
Cotton, embroidery floss, and wool roving.*

Madeleine Sinnott from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, nominated by Prof. Anke Fox



*Madeleine Sinnott
"Strawberry Milk", 2019
16" x 86.5"*

Cotton seine cord, naturally dyed wool, chenille, silk, found yarns, cotton.

Communications

ATA has a strong commitment to communicating with its members and also opening up paths of communication for member-to-member interaction. From Tapestry Topics, our well-loved and very readable newsletter, to the dozens of interesting images that are shared each month through social media, we remain committed to sharing information about tapestry. Communication is the heart of every organization, and especially important to a group like ours which serves members from around the world. While not everyone needs to stay involved on all levels, each member should be able to find more than one way to easily access inspiring written and visual information and to feel connected to the wider world of tapestry weaving.

Tapestry Topics

ATA's quarterly newsletter, a members' only benefit, is rich with information and images on curated topics. The PDF format allows us to deliver the latest issue as soon as it is published. Issues more than two years old are available on the website for the general public. We are pleased to announce that there is now an index for the issues from 2011-2015, compiled by volunteer Kim Mumbower, this list is accessible on the Tapestry Topics web page. Production of this inspiring and informative newsletter is accomplished by Editor Leslie Munro and the dedicated Tapestry Topics team of Robbie Lafleur, Pat Williams, Patricia Jordan and Ruth Manning. They do a wonderful job with every issue.

Thanks to our Theme Coordinators:

- Summer 2018, Continuing Threads Part 2, Lyn Hart
- Fall 2018, New Faces, Elena Zuyok
- Winter 2018/19, Origin Stories Liz Pulos
- Spring 2019, Molly Elkind, Collage
- Summer 2019, Maggie Leininger, Green

eNews and eKudos

Monthly blasts continue to keep us all up to date on ATA's programming and ATA members' news. They are the who, what, when and where of ATA. Staff and volunteers work on this and we thank Maggie Leininger, Mary Lane and Virginia Taylor for their efforts in keeping us up to date during this last year.

ATA-Talk

ATA-Talk offers interested members an email discussion group for timely, lively and sometimes controversial open discussions and sharing of news. Thanks go to the dedicated team of Christine Laffer and Margaret Sunday for their management of this members benefit. If you aren't currently participating in this online opportunity, we encourage you to join the conversation. Please contact Christine Laffer to subscribe: christine.laffer@gmail.com.

Let's Talk Tapestry

Having just passed its first anniversary, Let's Talk Tapestry now serves 35% of our members. The private Facebook group was created by Rachel Fesperman, Nicki Bair and Mary Lane and is now managed by Kennita Tully, Nicki Bair and Maggie Leininger. Discussion topics are posted monthly and provoke stimulating conversations on tapestry related subjects. You can join by searching Let's Talk Tapestry on Facebook and hit the join button. We encourage you to make posts using a range of media - photos, videos, long and short posts - on anything related to tapestry. Share your current projects and ideas and ask questions of your own. This is an easy and immediate way to connect with your tapestry community.

Website

The ATA website continues to provide a river of information and inspiration. We all need to remember to check it on a regular basis as it continues to grow and improve. We continue to work at making this a user friendly and visually stimulating website. We recently added an index for Tapestry Topics.

Education

ATA is deeply committed to keeping tapestry alive and thriving through its many educational programs. Terry Olson, Director of Education, organizes and oversees the very popular workshops held each year.

Educational Articles

Education articles are published each year on the ATA website under Education. This year Jeane Vogel wrote: *Get Your Work Out There: EXHIBIT.*

Mentoring Program

The Mentoring Program pairs a member (mentee) with a volunteer ATA instructor (mentor). They work together to design an individualized learning program for the mentee. We thank Linda Disosway for managing this productive program. This is a very valuable benefit for Circle level members. New mentors, who are willing to share their expertise, are always needed. We applaud our members who actively engage in this type of enrichment and we sincerely thank our mentors for sharing their valuable time and energy to this rewarding program.

Workshops

Members Retreat

Twenty-seven lucky members participated in two wonderful ATA workshops in Reno, NV in July of 2018. Maximo Laura and Rowen Schusheim-Anderson each shared their skills and knowledge with enthusiastic participants. These two artists also spoke to a large and appreciative audience at the Members Meeting just prior to the start of the workshops. The meeting also included a presentation of last year's Annual Report, a viewing of the Digislam (which is now on our website), a preview of World Tapestry Now and a sale of ATA catalogs.



Maximo Laura at work.



Rowen Schusheim-Anderson in Reno.

2019 Workshop

Creating Complexity: Strategies to Expand Your Approach to Designing and Weaving Tapestry. Jane Kidd led this very energetic and successful workshop at the Damascus Fiber Arts School outside of Portland, Oregon from June 27-30, 2019.



Jane Kidd workshop: Creating Complexity, June 2019

Listing of Tapestry Instructors

ATA's website includes a valuable listing of tapestry instructors from around the world. These artists, from twenty-four states within the USA and seven other countries, teach classes, workshops and provide individual instruction at <http://americantapestryalliance.org/tapestry-instructors-2/>.

Exhibitions

ATA sponsored exhibitions provide constant inspiration. The exhibitions are well received and celebrate the many talents of our membership. American Tapestry Biennial, Small Tapestry International and the Unjuried Small Format Exhibition are shown in galleries around the United States. While visitors to these shows are admiring the tapestries, the Exhibition Committee is busy planning the upcoming shows. Putting

together an exhibition, with an accompanying catalog, takes a wide variety of skill sets. Numerous volunteers are involved at all stages - from finding exhibition venues to shipping catalogs long after the show has opened. It is difficult to convey the enormous effort it takes to create each exhibit; sincere thanks are extended to all the volunteers who worked with our former Director of Exhibitions, Louise Halsey and our current Director, Lisa Almeida to bring each exhibit to fruition.

Small Tapestry International 6: Beyond the Edge

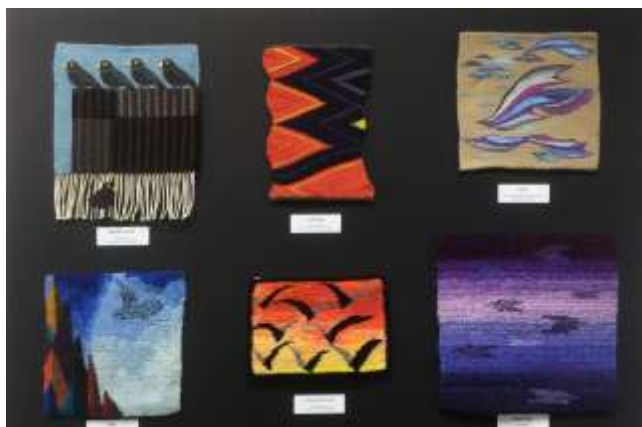
This ever-popular exhibition was juried by Jane Kidd and opened at the Orville J. Hanchey Gallery at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. It will travel to Augustana Teaching Museum of Art, Augustana College in Illinois in the fall of 2019. Carol Ternus was the Chair for this show and the beautiful catalog was designed by Dianne Chicoine.



*Turid Teague "Out of Reach", 2018
6.75" x 9.5"*

The Biggest Little Tapestries in the World

The Biggest Little Tapestries in the World closed at the end of July 2018 in Reno, Nevada. Always a popular show with Convergence attendees, this show once again proved to be a big hit. Small tapestries from around the world were displayed at the Northwest Reno Public Library. Thanks to Judith and Lawrence Romiti for allowing the tapestries to be shipped to their home; to Nicki Bair, Penny Bair and Nancy Pryor for hanging the show; to Susan Grant Duffield and Nancy Pryor (with other Reno Guild members) for taking the show down; and to the Willamette Tapestry Artists for handling the return shipping.



Installation view of Biggest Little Tapestries in Reno, Nevada 2018.

World Tapestry Now

This in-print and online exhibition was premiered at the Members Meeting in Reno and then went live on the ATA website in July 2018. Juried by Włodzimierz Cygan, this spectacular exhibition was co-chaired by Margo Macdonald and Ellen Ramsey. The catalog was designed by Deborah Gibson and included essays by Archie Brennan and Janis Jeffries.



Agneta Henerud, Sweden. "Passage", 2016 59" x 43.3"

Upcoming Exhibitions

American Tapestry Biennial 13

Applications are currently being accepted for this exhibition which will be juried by Nick DeFord. The show will open at Highfield Hall in Falmouth, MA and travel to the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA.

Renditions 2020, Unjuried Small Format Exhibition

This exhibition, still in the planning stages, will be held at the Broadway Studios and Gallery, in conjunction with Convergence 2020 in Knoxville, TN.

TEx@ ATA

TEx@ATA is our on-line exhibition venue where we present curated exhibitions that highlight tapestry artists around the world. Two wonderful exhibitions, coordinated by Valerie Kirk, opened this year: **Breaking through Tradition - Contemporary Tapestry in France**, curated by Cresside Collete with support from ATA's Laffer Curatorial Program.



Interior of the Mediaeval salon Cité

Pat Williams Has Stories to Tell, curated by Tommye McClure Scanlin.



Pat Williams, "Bugs on Parade", 2009, 18" x 38.5", photo: Randy Crump.

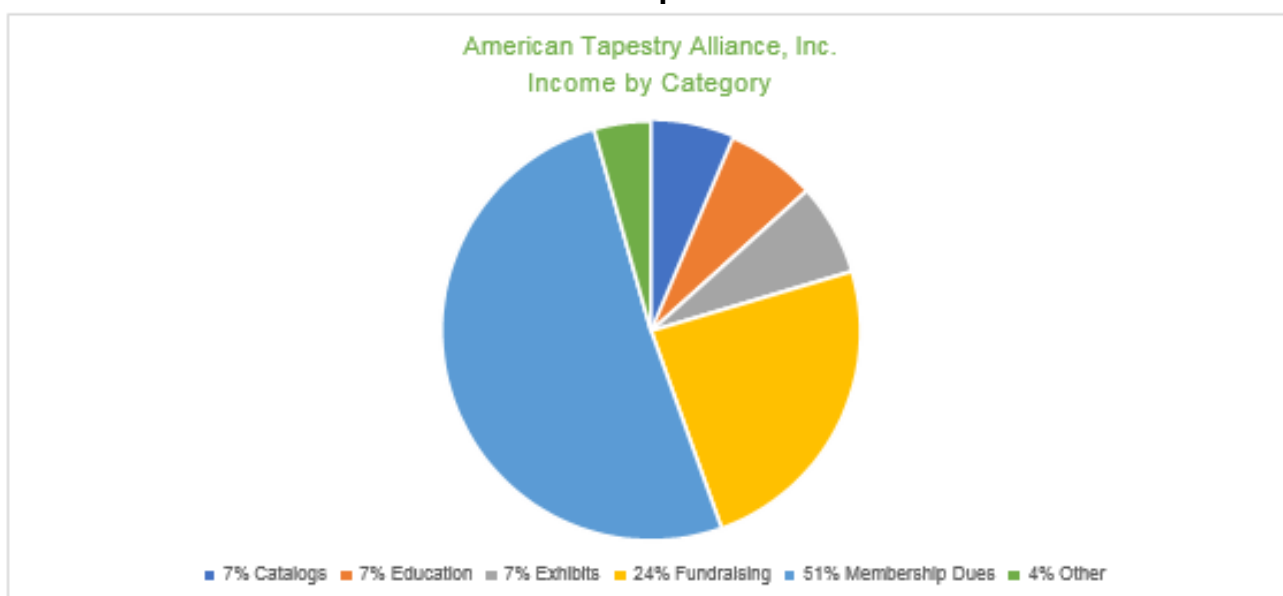
Finance

Finances

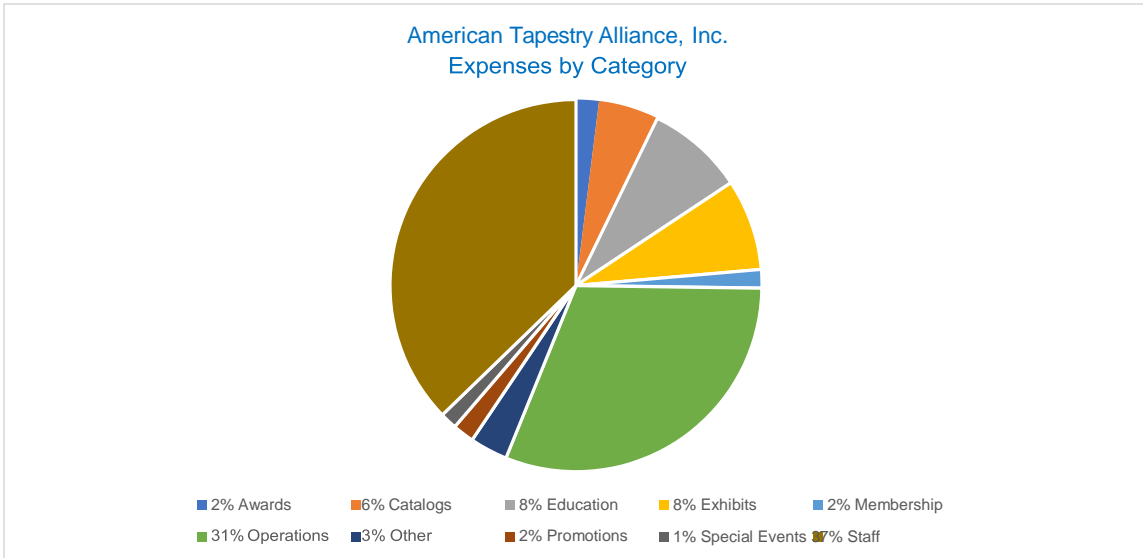
We are pleased to report that ATA remains financially healthy due to constant growth in membership and the generosity of our members throughout the year. Adequate monetary resources support the high level of programming highlighted throughout this report.

If you would like additional information about ATA's financial records, please contact the Director of Finance and Treasurer, Regina Dale: treasurer@americantapestryalliance.org. Regina has worked tirelessly to update our financial records and help the rest of the Board become financially literate.

Income & Expense



%	Income Category	\$ Amount
7%	Catalogs	\$5,272.60
7%	Education	\$5,740.00
7%	Exhibits	\$5,835.00
24%	Fundraising	\$19,890.56
51%	Membership Dues	\$42,138.34
4%	Other	\$3,624.11



%	Expense Category	\$ Amount
2%	Awards	\$1,750.00
6%	Catalogs	\$4,617.74
8%	Education	\$7,475.84
8%	Exhibits	\$7,002.32
2%	Membership	\$1,418.17
31%	Operations	\$27,298.28
3%	Other	\$2,897.58
2%	Promotions	\$1,646.96
1%	Special Events	\$1,300.25
37%	Staff	\$32,857.50

Print Materials

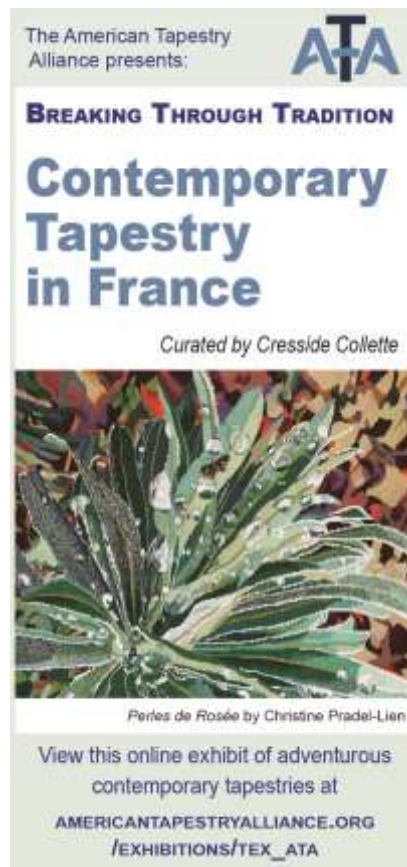
Deb Shoenberger and Jessica Ostrow handle the management of the catalog inventory and ship our beautiful catalogs to all who order. ATA has been trying to make wise decisions about the number of catalogs to print for each exhibition. This is a balancing act of trying to determine and order what is needed to meet demand, but not so many that they sit in inventory for years. We encourage you to order copies of older catalogs to fill in your collection while they are still available.

Fundraising

Our annual Valentine's Day Appeal was a success, raising \$6,528.00, while also giving members the opportunity to honor someone in their life. The Fundraising team of Nicki Bair, Mary Lane, Maggie Leininger and Tommye Scanlin designed the appeal. We appreciate all gifts large and small and we are available to discuss legacy giving or giving for specific programs. If you have any questions about donating to ATA please contact the Treasurer at: treasurer@americantapestryalliance.org.

Promotions

This committee, led by Director of Promotions, Nicki Bair, actively publicizes the activities and programs of ATA throughout the digital and print worlds. Utilizing advertisements in magazines, press releases, social media announcements, online ads and informative emails the committee has greatly increased our visibility. In addition, a broader awareness of the field of contemporary tapestry is encouraged by the sharing of information with textile curators and academics, including sending out complimentary copies of ATA catalogs and CODA.



Ad for Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot Summer 2019

Social Media

ATA has become highly visible on social media platforms and this has allowed us to gain new members and expose more people to tapestry. Nicki Bair, and her promotions team of Jacquie Fraser, Maggie Leininger, Rachel Fesperman, Kennita Tully and with the support of Mary Lane has been actively strengthening our online activities and building relationships with other fiber organizations and fiber businesses over the past year.

Almost 8,000 people follow ATA on Facebook, over 2,500 people follow our flow of images on Instagram and over 400 people follow us on Twitter. Members can enjoy the wonderful feeling of surprise when seeing their work featured in these outlets through an ATA post through Tapestry of the Day postings by Jacquie Fraser as well as posts which spotlight Artist Circle pages and Member-Instructors listings on our website.



Barbara Heller, "Detritus", Social Media Post April 11, 2019

Blog

Mastering Self Promotion is a blog designed to give artists the tools they need to promote their work in a professional manner. Barbara Burns continues to add new postings written by her as well as by a variety of guest writers, which are helpful to weavers in all stages of their careers.

Video

ATA member Cecilia Blomberg graciously agreed to be the weaver in ATA's video project. In the video she demonstrates many aspects of studio life along with both high-warp and low-warp weaving. This video, which provides a basic look at weaving contemporary tapestries, will be used in conjunction with our exhibitions and other events. It will help the general public understand what it is that we all love to do - weave compelling and beautiful tapestries. This video was completed with funds from the 2018 Valentine's Day Appeal. Please watch the video on our home page here: <https://americantapestryalliance.org/>.

CODA

CODA: Tapestry Art Today - features contemporary tapestry artists from around the world, with images and articles that present a broad spectrum of perspectives on the art of tapestry as it is celebrated today. The next issue of this promotional publication is in the works. Spearheaded by Ellen Ramsey, and layout by Sara Figel, it will be published this coming fall.

Volunteers

ATA's range of activities grows and changes with the varied needs of the membership and our ongoing commitment to ATA's Mission Statement. ATA, and our diverse and extensive programming would not exist without the talent and skills of volunteer members who are responsible for every exhibition, workshop, project and initiative. ATA is extremely grateful to over 60 volunteers who have generously contributed their time and talents this year on a regular basis and the many more who volunteered for a one-time task.

Volunteer Coordinator Donna Wynn resigned at the end of this fiscal year and Michiele Elliott will be replacing her. This is a vital position that helps to make wonderful matches between volunteers and task—both large and small. Victoria Moore, continues to be the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. Thanks to all of them for helping to keep ATA strong and healthy.



*Clare Coyle, "Breaking Away", 2018.
11" x 14"*

It was another good year for ATA. We started the 2018/19 year with our Members Meeting in Reno, NV and ended with a workshop for members led by Jane Kidd near Portland, OR. In between these events we had a steady stream of programming. It is exciting to see how much our volunteer organization can accomplish when we are all invested in the future of tapestry.

We thank each and every member, especially our volunteers, for their commitment to ATA and look forward to seeing many of you in Knoxville next summer for our 2020 Members Meeting and workshops.