

KAREN DONDE HANDWOVENS

Garments ❖ Accessories ❖ Home Textiles ❖ Weaving Instruction

Guild Programs/Presentation Suggestions

Offered in-person or live online

Historical

The Fascinating Life of Mary Meigs Atwater

Regarded as the dean of American handweaving, Mary Meigs Atwater, 1878-1956, was not driven by a passion for making cloth. Inspired by handweaving industries in southern Appalachia, she saw weaving as a productive outlet for women in her Montana mining community, as occupational therapy for soldiers injured in World War I and as financial support for her family. She also was an artist, designer, world traveler, novelist, patriot, beaver rancher, political activist, wife, mother and avid fisherman. This seminar shares anecdotes, quotes and revelations that speak to Atwater's courage, adventurous spirit, intellect and contributions to American handweaving.

Design

Design Tips & Tools to Spice Up Your Weaving

This lecture encourages participants to venture beyond the weaving "recipe" to create their own weaving designs. After a brief historical perspective on modern weaving design, the presentation will help listeners identify their preferred weaving styles, explain design elements as they relate to weaving and present tools to help guide weaving design decisions about materials, color, proportion, pattern and scale. We'll end with suggestions for finding inspiration and transforming it into a finished piece. While focused on weaving, many of the suggestions offered could be applied to any fiber art technique

Color, Pattern, Shape: From Inspiration to Design

Ever get stuck trying to decide what to weave, knit, dye or felt next? This presentation is designed to rev up your design engine and organize the many options available to you for creating cloth or the objects you make with it. Collect interesting pictures cut from magazines or old calendars, printed pictures from a vacation or your garden, whatever catches your eye. We'll sort by various design parameters, select favorites, then divide into groups (live or virtually) to discuss and share ways to formulate them into a design. Participants will leave with new design tools and maybe inspiration for their next projects.

Designing Handwoven Fabric You Can Wear

Making handwoven clothing you are proud to wear starts with designing fabric to suit the particular needs of the planned garment. Shoulder-draping shawls, loose-fitting wraps and fitted, tailored jackets or dresses all require cloth that will perform as needed, not only during fitting and construction, but during repeated wearing and cleaning. This lecture offers advice about designing and weaving garment-worthy fabric, as well as finishing, cutting and sewing tips.

Technique and Structure

Go Big with Color-and-Weave Effects

Weaving giant color-and-weave effects on handlooms is achievable with a thick-and-thin technique in a structure similar to shadow weave. Color orders and weave structures are applied to blocks of ends vs. individual ends. Participants will learn how to expand popular motifs with paper/pencil exercises (provided digitally or as handouts) and weaving software demos. Good understanding of weave structures and drafting is suggested.

Turned Beiderwand to Double Two-Tie

When a Beiderwand draft is turned so supplementary wefts become supplementary warps and the pattern can be woven with one shuttle, it creates a threading system that can weave variations of several turned supplementary weft structures. That threading system is also called double two-tie, which expands the design power of a single warp even further. Learn how these structures relate and how to design your own structural variations from one shared threading. Good understanding of weave structures and drafting is suggested.

Other subjects listed under classes at karendondehandwovens.com may be adaptable to guild programs. Please contact [Karen](mailto:karen) for details.