



FIBERARTS GUILD MEMBERSHIP SHOW

November 19, 2010 — January 23, 2011

Fiberarts Guild
OF PITTSBURGH, INC.

JUROR'S STATEMENT — Jozef Bajus

Recycling is a new phenomenon and has a big influence on our lives. Waste is a reflection of our lifestyle and we are simply trapped in the big cycle of mass production-consume-waste-recycle. The “green movement” resulting from global warming has had a great effect on our generation—these days we are more likely to think twice about what we’re buying, what we’re keeping and what we throw away.

As artists we fall into a slightly different category on this topic. Besides our regular recycling, we are saving many kinds of other creative materials. These could be small scraps, big pieces, old papers, bags, etc... We are collecting everything that somehow catches our artistic eye. Our desire to save family inherited keepsakes like old images, letters, postcards, textiles, and other antique pieces, which are passed on from generation to generation. Sometimes we even pick up trash/valuables by the curb as we drive by. Even if we’re not sure at that moment how we will use it, we still keep it because it might come in handy some day. Very often we find ourselves traveling miles to flea markets or stopping at yard sales just out of curiosity and the possibility of finding hidden treasures for future use. Many times we can acquire useful items from people who are moving or are getting rid of things they don’t need anymore. By giving the items away they hope the pieces will find a good home; therefore, they will remain purposeful and will stay in the using/re-using “cycle.” Clearly collecting is our passion.

For me, as an artist who works with recycled materials myself, having the opportunity to judge the *re.CYCLE.fiber* show was a challenging process. Imagine entering a room filled with artworks, not in any specific order, and trying to visually absorb what’s in front of you. Walking around and around, the judging process begins as you observe the artworks closer. The focus is on the materials being used, different range of textiles and mixed media techniques, quality of craftsmanship, concept behind the project, scale as well as the overall aesthetics of the final artwork. From the very beginning you are also keeping in mind the end result. The goal is to create a strong collection of diverse artworks that will be displayed at the gallery space, reaching out to a broader audience. During the judging process I was on the lookout for innovative, contemporary, and inspiring artworks; pieces of art that were never before seen, which are on the boundary line between the traditionally defined categories of “art” and “craft.” This is not an easy task.

Research and experimentation were obvious in all of the submitted artworks. Although people say that “there’s nothing new and everything has been already done,” I believe that an

artist can add his/her own personal touch and create something original. Creation of new and unique pieces of art using recycled materials is like giving that forgotten material a second chance; its transformation could be something unexpected. Traditional techniques such as applique, quilting, weaving, hand and machine stitching, basket making, handmade paper, crocheting, beadwork, screen printing and unexpected combinations of the above were a big part of the great diversity of artworks. I found it interesting that many projects were with an obvious personal message—through hand written text, family photographs and stitched stories on fabric, screen print on series of blankets or rusty wire elements over a big glass vase were a representation of the deeper personal stories. Surprising garments/sculptures, parts of shirts incorporated with transparent pattern paper and stretched over the wooden structure or small sections—rough cuts of original garments embellished by delicate hand stitching, were great examples of how an ordinary item could be transformed to a new exciting contemporary piece of art.

Visualizing the future of *re.CYCLE.fiber* was like working on a “composition” for me. Seeing the final selection of 41 artworks from 28 artists in a real gallery space just after selection process gave me chance to rethink about every single project again. All of the individual pieces were like pieces of puzzle; they had a very specific place in “my” composition. It was exciting to see how artworks created an immediate dialogue in between each other as well as gave the show a cohesive look.

As juror for *re.CYCLE.fiber* I want to personally extend my congratulations to all artists who submitted work to the exhibition review. It was indeed a privilege to learn about the vibrant creative community of the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh. In closing, I also want to acknowledge the members of the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh for their hard and dedicated work while preparing the *re.CYCLE.fiber* show and my special appreciation is going out to all members-volunteers for support, hospitality and help during my jurying process.

Jozef Bajus is associate professor of design and coordinator of the fiber program at Buffalo State University in New York.



Harriett Huss Flynn BEST OF SHOW AWARD



MICHELLE BROWNE

Marilyn, Audrey, Sophia and Grace

Rusting, printing, sewing, hand stitching, wire,
batting, old quilts and pillows

Kor Award INNOVATIVE USE OF MATERIALS

WANDA SPANGLER-WARREN



Silk Cycle

Mixed media; wood, reed, paper, silk, cotton

Doudon Award BEST BOTANICAL WORK

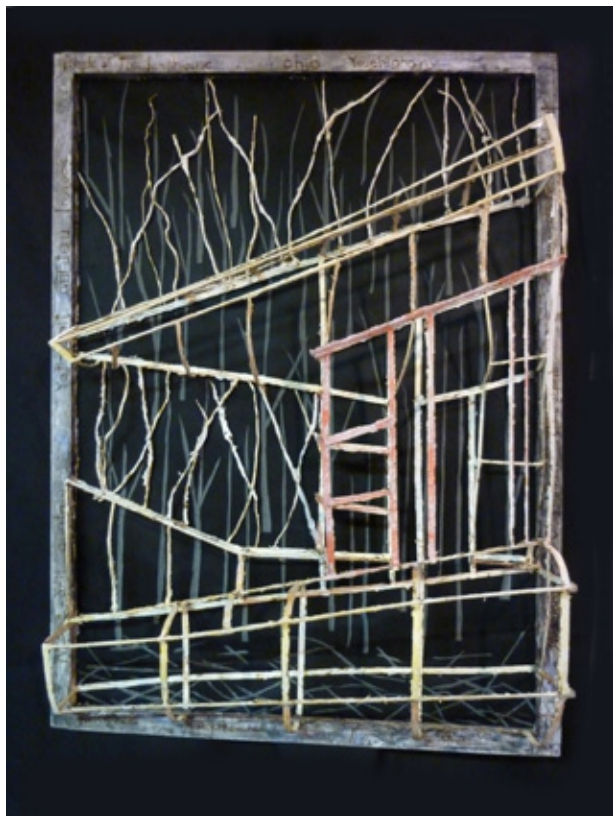
JEAN THOMAS



In Memoriam

Sympathy cards and letters fused to cotton muslin; photo transfers on reverse side

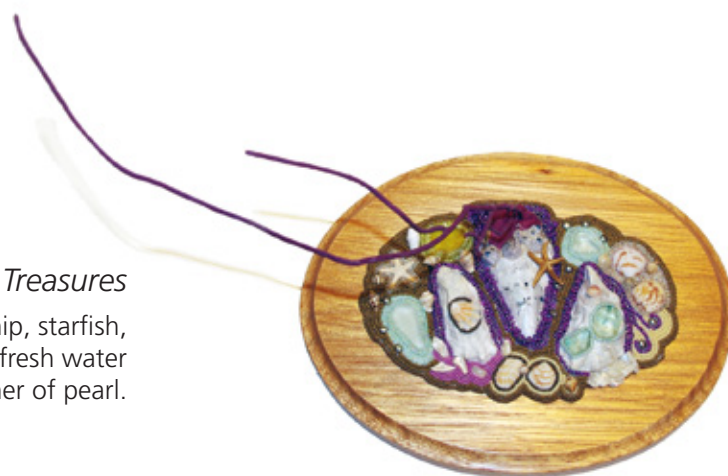




Frank's Post-Apocalyptic Corner Window
Mixed media; reed, wood, paper, felt



Gone
Poem by Jim D. Deuchars
Appropriated garments hand stitched
with silk thread, poem on vellum



Beach Treasures
Bead embroidery, sea whip, starfish,
sea glass and shells, fresh water
pearls and mother of pearl.

FANNIE WHITE



My Aunt, Who's Not My Aunt
Crazy quilt-mixed media



SANDY KEPHART

Stick and Stones

Pieced, collaged and stitched, worked onto Peltex, hand-dyed and purchased cotton fabrics



Better with Experience
Steel wire, paper pulp hand knitted and rusted

CAROL ANN RICE RAFFERTY

LILA HIRSCH BRODY

How I Water My Recycled Garden

Mixed media



Firebird Reincarnated

Old suede shoes, size 7 1/2, painted with acrylic, stitched on old jewelry, crystals and glass beads

Panther Reincarnated

Fabric shoes from thrift store, size 8M, stitched on scarf, peacock feathers, crystals and glass beads

Parrot Reincarnated

Painted fabric shoes from thrift store, size 7 1/2M, stitched on ribbon, glued on crystals and old earrings

ANGELA PASQUALE



Dripping Teardrops

Fancy handkerchiefs embellished with threads, quartz, crystal beads

ANN A. TAYMANS

Which Smells Best?

Calendar pages, dryer sheets, ribbon and beads

"These Are a Few of My Favorite Things"

Printing on fabric, patchwork cotton



AKIKO KOTANI



Imagine I
Crocheted Giant Eagle plastic bags with metal stand



Imagine II
Crocheted Giant Eagle plastic bags with metal stand

DAVID WATTS



untitled
Paper egg cartons, nylon cord

PEGGY RELICH

New York Beauty I

Machine pieced, hand
quilted by Beatrice Lahr
from leftover fabric from
previous projects



Took My Breath Away

Glass candle holder, used
coffee filters, feather from
my pillow, my hair, wire,
paper and beeswax



CAROL ANN RICE RAFFERTY

Still Life Blowout

Shards of blown out steel-belted truck tires, wooden pattern from old foundry; vase; fabric altered with stitches and heat, buttons, beads and wire



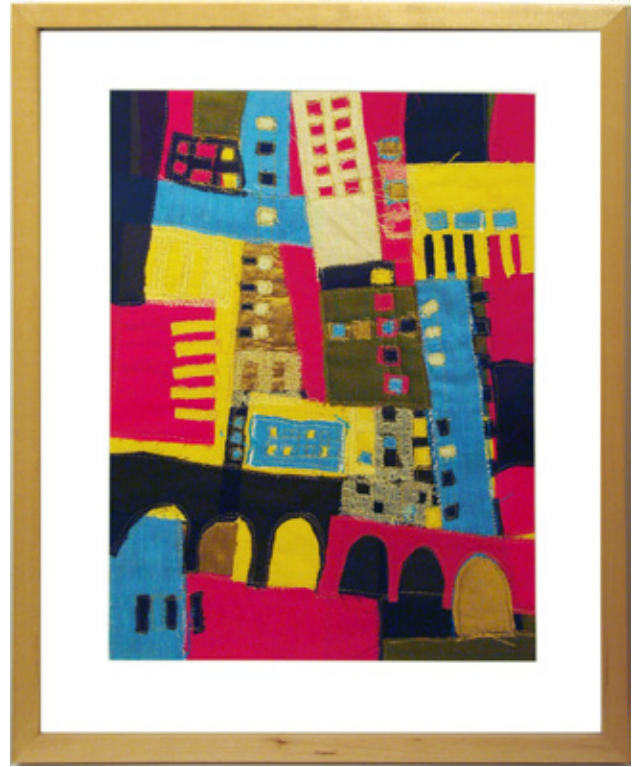
MARTHA RESSLER

Urban Redesign

Fabric scraps, fused and machine stitched

City Layers

Sheer fabrics, plastic mesh, layered, machine and hand stitching



Welcome Back Yo-Yos #3

Yo-Yos, quilting, beading, velvet, silk, satin, misc. fabrics

Welcome Back Yo-Yos #5

Yo-Yos, quilting, velvet, silk, satin, misc. fabrics



JOANNE BAXTER

My Recycled Dress

Patterning, sewing and piecing;
cardboard and yarn

SUZANNE M. STEINER



JEANETTE MCCABE



Restoration

Woven pearl cotton, deer bones, stones

The Forest Spirit

Woven pearl cotton, sticks, stones, wire, beads



BRENT RUKA

Close-knit Family

Fusing, hand embroidery; moth-eaten wool sweaters, thread and found frame

LAURA TABAKMAN



On Deck

Sewn and curled playing cards from previous Guild project

Curly

Sewn and curled playing cards from previous Guild project



JANE OGREN

Mixed Media Circles II, #224

Fiber scraps sewn in concentric circles on silk dupioni background.
Yarn embellishment

SHERRI ROBERTS



Bubbling...Comic Comments

Silk, embroidery floss, paper, cotton,
couching and rolled beads

SIGRID PIROCH

Eroica

Handwoven; silk warp and reel to
reel audio tape weft





MICHELLE BROWNE

Intimate Illumination or Hooking Up Dress

Old brassieres; cut, pinned, stitched, phone cords, wire and safety pins



Alfonso's Family Tree

Coiling; reed, Irish waxed linen thread, walnut slices

CERES M. RANGOS



Disposable?

Installation; animal shelter cat photos printed on cotton fabric, milk carton pull tabs, vintage cording, paper and nails

MARY TOWNER



Summer's Shroud

Paste, paper, muslin, found botanicals, formed collage

Paper or Plastic

Grocery bags, pulp, paper, plastic bags, felt quilted and formed collage

DONNA BOGOSTO KEARNS

LAURA TABAKMAN

Waterfall

Installation; using sewn
playing cards from
previous Guild project
and rolled nails





Harriett was a self-taught needlepoint artist honing her craft during the summers spent in Beach Haven, NJ. While residing and teaching sixth grade in Ridgewood, NJ, later in the Shaler School District, north of Pittsburgh and wonderful retirement with her husband, Jack, in Stuart, Florida. Their love of worldwide travel, mostly by cruise ships, allowed lots of quality time to work on her craft. Many of the pieces were purchased internationally or at shops in the states while visiting her daughters; Jodie on Cape Cod, Charlotte in Harrisburg or her many wonderful friends in other cities. Each object had a "story" of its origin and of the work-in-progress. Her love of needlepoint created works that would become a pillow, a purse, a fire screen, an eyeglass cover, a framed picture among other objects—each unique. Harriett's deep love of family and friends meant her pieces were always given as a gift.

www.fiberartspgh.org