

ISOLATION: before COVID19

Taking a traditional craft into the 21st Century

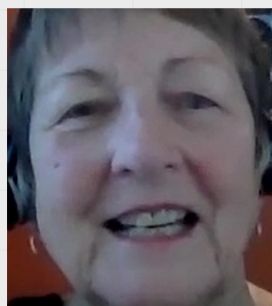


Global Textile Hub

Josephine (Jo) Franco & Judi Tompkins:
discuss contemporary rug making in Australia, and
Australian Rug Hooking Groups.

Textile artists and Members of,
The International Guild of Handhooking
Rugmakers (TIGHR)

Members of the Team of 3 at Global
Textile Hub.



This presentation created for Members of The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR)



Vast distances & Few rug groups

Since this presentation was created,
a few more groups have been added;
there's approximately

4 in QLD,
5 in NSW,
2 in VIC,
2 in TAS,
1 in SA and

4 in WA – only one is connected to the
Australian Rugmakers Group.

HISTORY:

Australia doesn't have the same rug hooking history as
Canada and USA. The craft started in the same way;
brought in by immigrants and early settlers; the
difference is, it didn't become commercialized here.

Rughooking Australia the website of Australian Rugmakers Group (previously called "Guild") gives
information about rug hookers around Australia and groups in various States on the following link;
<https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/current-events/>

Rughooking
Australia
Networking Fibre Artists
throughout the South Pacific

Home
Current Events
Blog
Gallery
Swap, Sell or Looking to
find...
History of Australian
Rug Hooking

BLOG POSTS BY

Current Events



Locations of rug groups around Australia
(by State) and Calendar updates for 2021

If you have a rug group in Australia and would like to be listed
here please email: rughookingaustralia@gmail.com

QUEENSLAND:

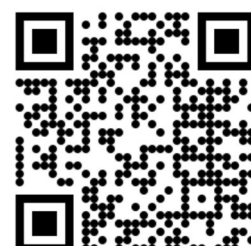
The Red Earth Ruggers meet in Kingaroy, [South Burnett Region](#).



Australian Rugmakers Group
@australianrugmakersguild - Nonprofit
Organization

<https://www.facebook.com/australianrugmakersguild>

Rug Hooking Australia



A non-existent history...

a small number of hand hooked rugs can be found in the archives of a few museums.

The Tasmanian Wool Centre has these from 1920-30's – there are also a couple of rugs from early 1900's



TWC2016-2 Ransom Rug detail underside



TWC2016-2 Ransom Rug top view 2230mmx1400mm



NEW SOUTH WALES: Glenroy Heritage Centre Tumbarumba



Rag Rugs

"Mum was always cutting up old pullovers and things. The big bits went into Wagga rugs and the rest were cut into strips and kept in a bag and then made into floor rugs..."

Brick, wood, and lino floors all meant cold feet! Rag rugs were made for warmth and for decoration too. Any strips of old material would be used, but wool was preferred as being particularly warm and also hard wearing. Even old stockings were re-used - they would be cut into a continuous strip, beginning at the top.

No pieces of household fabric needed to be wasted. They could be plaited and coiled, or hooked, or woven. Washed sugar bags could be opened out into a rectangle, and sewn together into a sturdy backing. Although thrift was a necessity, farm women took great pride in the rule of 'waste not want not.'

South Australian Immigration Museum – Archives (1920-30's)



Courtesy of Migration Museum, Adelaide, South Australia HT90-143



Courtesy of Migration Museum, Adelaide, South Australia Item 3



Courtesy of Migration Museum Adelaide, South Australia HT90_142


Nth American traditional rug hooking: introduced by Pam Whitehead to South Australia mid 1969.

Pam was born near Doncaster, Lancashire, England, June 20, 1923. (Passed 2006)
She served in the WRAF as a radio operator and after WW2 moved to Australia.
In 1953 married Lewis Whitehead in Goondiwindi, Queensland. 1954 Pam went back to the UK for a year during that time her son Peter was born. (Peter provided this history)
1955 Pam moved to Canada. While in Toronto she became a McGown accredited rug hooking teacher.
Returning to Australia (Elizabeth, South Australia) July 1969 Pam taught at various locations over time, the main ones being the Elizabeth Girls Technical High School and Nuriootpa High School.



Joyce Emery was one of Pam's first students and became a rug hooking instructor. We met Joyce in 2008 when she came to the Aussie Rug Groups first exhibition, advertised as the first in South Australia! Joyce was quick to explain the history and tell us it was not the first; there had been many exhibitions in the 1970's, and that... Pam held an afternoon of rug hooking at her home once a month for over 30 years. The Group was known as the American Rug Hooking Group. Exhibitions were held in Salisbury, and areas around the Barossa Valley.





The City of Salisbury

12 James Street, Salisbury
TELEPHONE 259 1222


The Gallery

Every month a different array of art and sometimes handiworks, are placed on public display in The Gallery.

Everyone is welcome between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Admission is free. The City of Salisbury supports local art and encourages the community to come and admire the talent which abounds in Salisbury.

**THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
THE AMERICAN RUG HOOKING GROUP**
A collection of members' works will be on display until Friday, September 25, 1987.

The Gallery



Catalogue

ARTIST	DESIGN	PRICE \$
MRS. FRANCES BAWTON Pondillies	Designed by Self	200.00
MRS. MELVA BAUM Gallinas St. Olave Daisy	Designed by Rittmeyer " " " " " "	75.00 N.F.S. 40.00
MRS. MARIE CORNER Tambour Springtime Papete Magretian Grand Pansee	Designed by Rittmeyer " " " " " " " " " " " " Designed by P. McGowan	N.F.S. N.F.S. N.F.S. N.F.S. N.F.S.
MRS. JOYCE EMERY Floral Prints Haram Star Paperweight Marietta	Designed by P. McGowan Designed by Self Designed by Rittmeyer "	N.F.S. 280.00 250.00 140.00
MRS. FRAY GORDREY Printemps Schoolhouses Turtle Clown Butterfly Blue Moon	Designed by Rittmeyer Quilt Design Designed by Self " " " " " " " " "	380.00 375.00 20.00 20.00 35.00 40.00
MRS. KILLEN SCHULTZ Tambour Solitaire Stanford	Designed by Rittmeyer Designed by P. McGowan Designed by Rittmeyer	N.F.S. 350.00 150.00



Faye Godfrey joined Pam's group in 1972 - she said, Pam shared a lot of information and fabric and imported a stock of rug patterns and fabric dyes. Pam also imported cutting machines, hooks and other tools to sell to the Rug Group. The banner is in the South Australian Immigration Museum



Faye is holding a rug she designed, hooked, and gifted to the City of Ft. Worth, Texas, USA.

The City of Ft Worth is on the same latitude north as Salisbury is in the south. 50 years later at a rug hooking event in Strathalbyn, South Aust. Faye sold and gave away her own stash of wool, tools and rug patterns.



The Migration and Settlement Museum banner was made with ten separate panels each represent a different migrant heritage. Three cultural traditions are highlighted: English, Irish and German. Symbols associated with the old country combine with details of the immigrant's journey and images of life in the new land.

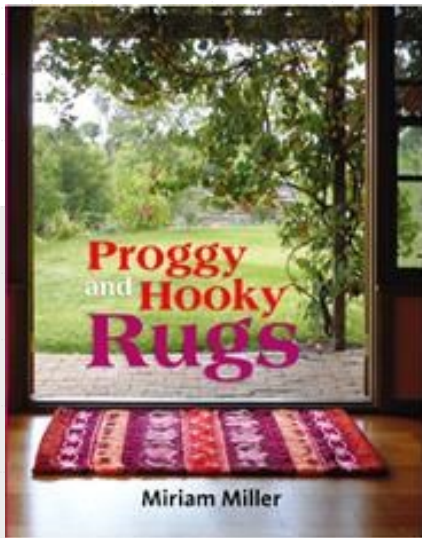
STRATHALBYN, SA: Joyce Emery, delivering rug hooking supplies from friends who can no longer use them, to Judith Stephens, 10 years from when we first met Joyce at the inaugural exhibition, when she showed up with a car full of her rugs collected from family and friends the morning of the Exhibition in 2008.



Joyce still has the same travelling companion who accompanied her to the exhibition back in 2008.

It's a 3-hour drive from her home in Elizabeth, SA, to Strathalbyn; not wanting to appear alone in the car on the long country drives which she often makes, Teddy is her companion.

1970, on the South-Central Coast of NSW, the UK technique emerged, taught by Miriam Miller, who continues to teach private workshops and has a large group of ruggers who have taken her lessons. Miriam is the author of the only rug hooking book published in Australia and has been publishing a newsletter from Narrawilly once a month without fail, for almost 6 years. 2008 when the Australian Rugmakers Group was founded Miriam was elected the first President.



Right; Miriam hooking on her large sunflower rug and above dyed blanket drying on the line ready for use in rug making.

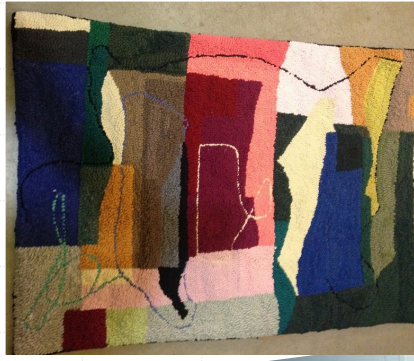


The Narrawill Proggy Ruggers enter the local Agricultural Show each year. This is the 2017 Show with Ilka Landahl's winning piece.

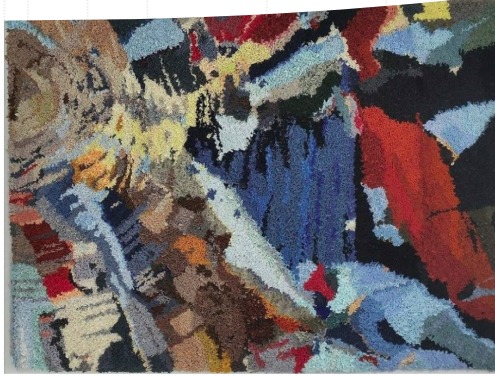
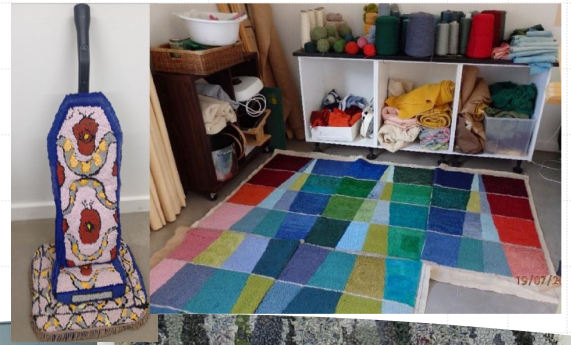


Rug makers come from near and far to visit Miriam at Narrawilly.

Below; is Gail Nichols from Braidwood, NSW, midway between Narrawilly and Canberra, ACT and some of her hooked artworks.



Above: Rug works by Maggie Hickey, who also visits Miriam from Braidwood



SYDNEY – “From Rags to Rugs, Sydney Rug Hookers”, is a relatively new group started by Martha Birch. They were just getting underway in Epping when the Pandemic hit; you can find their group online at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/387146415123046>



You can contact Martha at “From Rags to Rugs, Sydney Rug Hookers” online group through this live link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/387146415123046>

QUEENSLAND - KINGAROY



Queensland:

Judith Brook's Red Earth Ruggers meet at her home in Kingaroy, about 3 hrs northwest of Brisbane.

Judith is originally from New Zealand, the connection is often reflected in her rug designs.



QUEENSLAND - SUNSHINE COAST:



QUEENSLAND: landsborough

The Sunshine Fibre & Textile Artists gather at "Palimpsest"

Judi and members of the group travel to surrounding areas to demonstrate rug hooking and give hands-on demonstrations others.





Judi's hooked art is not... your Granny's mats



In conversation about her art and her creative endeavours, and her progression of the rug hooking technique Waldoboro, Judi says...

I've always been a lateral thinker and a curious risk-taker with an unconventional perspective on how problems might be resolved if they were perceived differently. I always knew I didn't "fit in" anywhere very well since both my personality and unconventional view of the world made me appear "eccentric" to those around me. However, my consistently skewed view of the world and ability to imagine "illogical" and innovative solutions to complex problems served me well in my professional work as a consultant/trouble-shooter for governments/organisations struggling to innovate projects that incorporated diverse disciplines. I find that if I study a problem that is opposite from the one I face pushes me toward a new perspective.



When I was finally able to shift my focus to fibre/textile art, I sought out people who, like me, perceived the world a bit differently and were open to – and actively seeking – change.

I believe the best way to live in a constantly changing world that amazes us with its novelty and unpredictability is to push your boundary of creative thinking.

I try to incorporate my knowledge of the natural environment, applied sciences, taxidermy, along with my interest in literature, language, music and pottery to create my 2- and 3-dimensional works. Having interests across so many disciplines means that although my work starts with a concept or idea and even a crude sketch, it more often than not takes on a life of its own and develops organically and I'm often surprised by the final outcome.



I celebrate visual surprises and I try to create pieces that will catch the viewer off-guard, engage them through an element of whimsy or an illustrated "fibre pun," so they may be challenged to move beyond the point of merely "thinking outside the box" to a point where they do not see the need for a box in the first place.

"So deep is the creative spirit that you will never discover its limits even if you search every trail." - Heraclitus

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY:

ACT: CANBERRA

Maggie Whyte belonged to a Felting group in Canberra before she met Miriam and became a rug hooker. Maggie started a rug hooking group in Canberra but continues to visit Miriam. Maggie also braids and has taught the “braided-in” technique to the rug hookers.





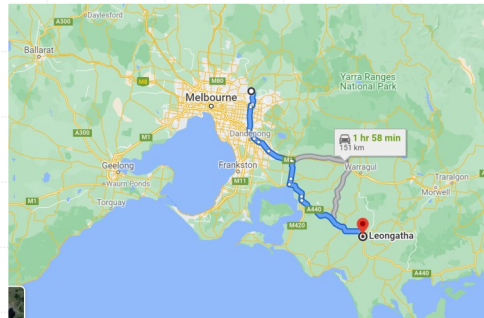
Chris Noorbergen hooking "Tehran"

VICTORIA:

The Yarra Valley Rugmakers'

work is more traditional; they do hook with wool, and some of the group are members of Gene Shepherd's Internet Rug Camp.

The members of this group live east of the city of Melbourne between Warrandyte in the north and Leongatha in the south -



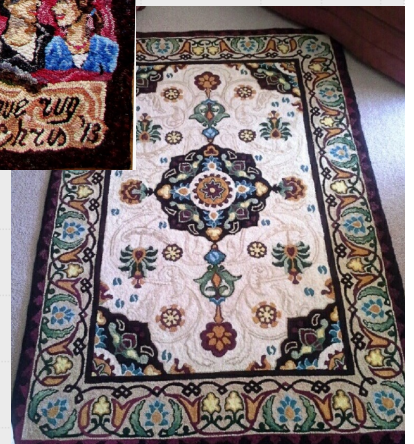
that's a 1hr 40+ minute drive, so they take turns to meet at each others house.

Chris Noorbergen: recently started a 2nd group in Victoria and is teaching beginners.

Chris hooked "My Love Rug" (family tree) after reading about story rugs by Heather Ritchie.

Tehran, hooked on a 50-year-old burlap pattern from Rittersmere, CANADA, purchased from Faye Godfrey in 2014 at a South Australian Hook-in.

Faye was downsizing and getting rid of the rug hooking stash she started to collect in 1972 when she joined Pam Whitehead's American Rug Hooking group.



READ MORE about the Victorian rugmakers and contact them through their Blog:

Yarra Valley Rugmakers <http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com/>

Or Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1013471425693050>

The new group, South Coast Ruggers meet in Leongatha and welcome new members and beginner rugmakers. Contact Chris at jerryandchris@startmail.com

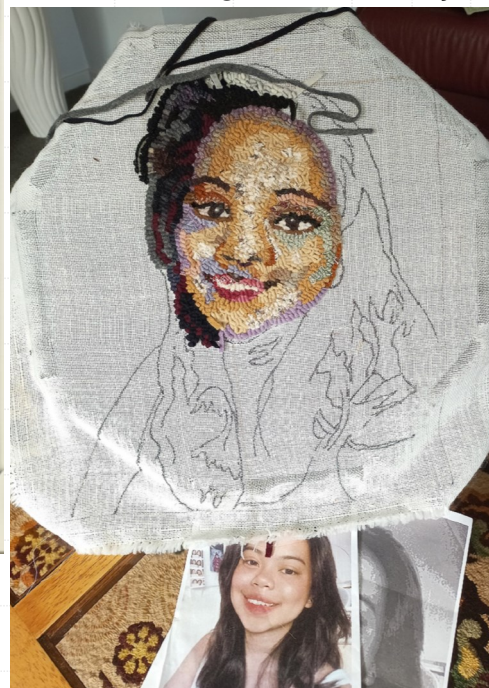
STILL IN VICTORIA:

2012 – following the TIGHR Conference Australia: Chris took a class with Heather Ritchie – hooking from photos.



From photos, Chris hooked 11x17 inch portraits of her six grandchildren, each portrait taking 3 months to complete.

New addition to the family; a step-daughter, means another rug is under way.



VICTORIA: Group Members travel long distances to demonstrate at Craft Shows **Robyne Melia's;** hooked & proggy rugs



TIGHR member **Anne Schafer**

FIND THE VICTORIAN RUGMAKERS ON THEIR FACEBOOK GROUP—

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1013471425693050>

Tasmania:

A group meets in Deloraine (north central) and use the latch hook technique; not your typical commercial latchhook designs, they create their own artistic designs.

Another Tassie group based in Hobart in the south, is an online rug group.

Bottom right is Alyson-Jean Keats with her purple/red "magic carpet". Aly talks about her progress on this large heavy rug and spinning wool to fill the gaps in this video.

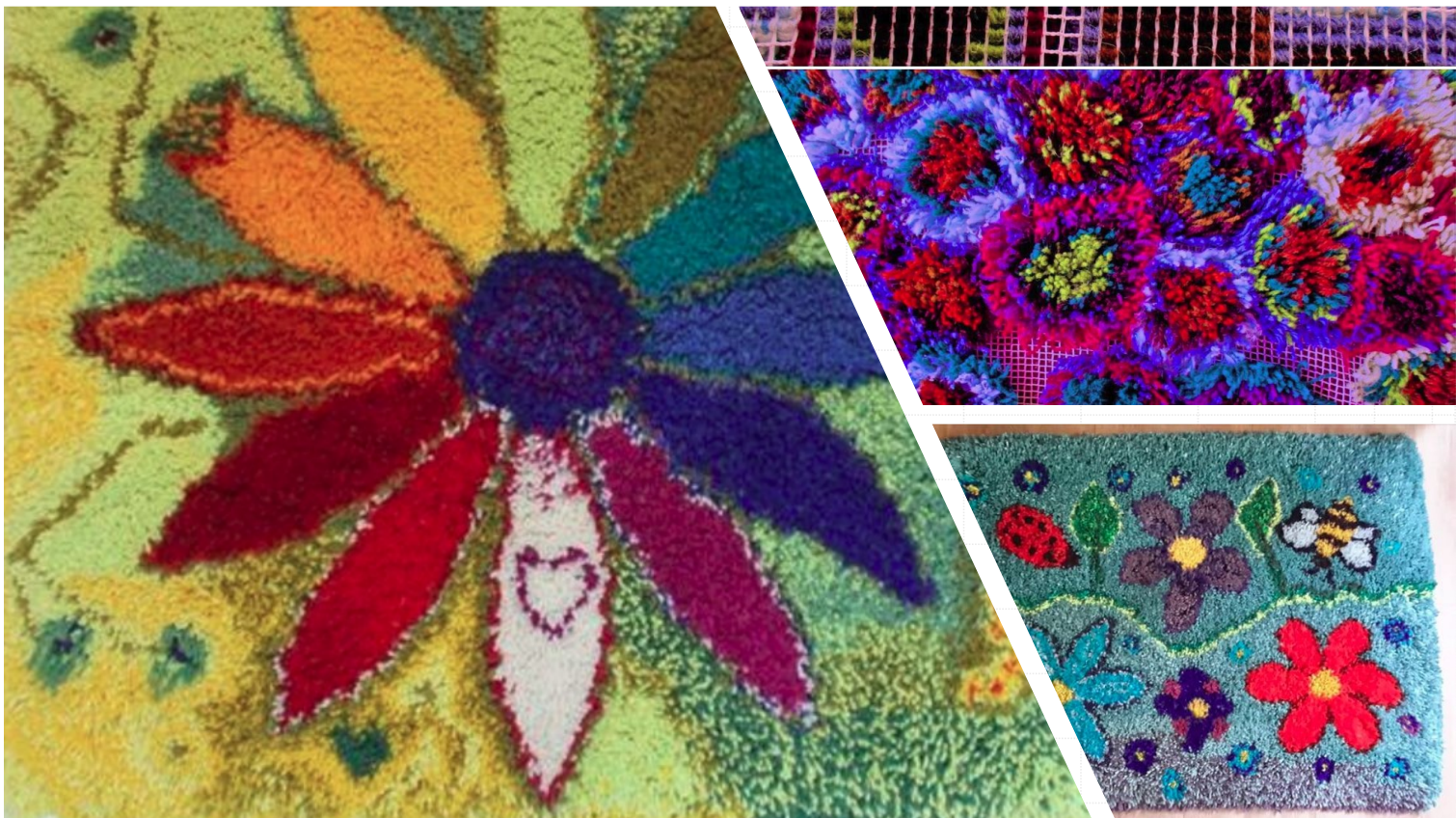
<https://www.facebook.com/100005394604242/videos/701833060006508/>



Live link : <https://www.facebook.com/100005394604242/>

Rug Hooking supplies can be found in Tasmania in Deloraine at <https://artasmania.com.au/>

Hobart Rag Ruggers Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hrootas>





South Australia has a long rug hooking history, starting in the 1960s with the introduction to traditional rug hooking, and in 2008 the formation in Strathalbyn, of the Australian Rugmakers Group, then in 2012 as host city to the TIGHR Triennial Conference.

Judith Stephens is the leader and has been the force behind this very active group for almost 20 years.

Strathalbyn is a small 'working' country town where people seem to know each other.

The quaint historic part of town is full of antique shops and being only a 45-minute drive from the city of Adelaide, it is also a tourist destination.

EVENTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION

OCTOBER 5th & 6th, 2019 - 10-4pm
RATHALBYN TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STRATHALBYN, SA
FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME

WEEKEND EVENTS INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS AND DEMONSTRATION

TAPESTRY WEAVING
COILED BASKETS
HOOKING 3D
FABRIC MANIPULATION
TWINNING
NAAL BINDING
DESIGN FOR FIBRE ARTISTS
INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

SALES TABLE - ALL ITEMS FIBRE RELATED

ENQUIRIES
Judith Stephens 8536 3451

Craft Fair

History Month – at Judith Stephens Home

Australian Rug Group Meeting

WORKS BY MEMBERS OF STRATHMATTERS:



A rug repair by Gail Mahon



Hooked by Angela

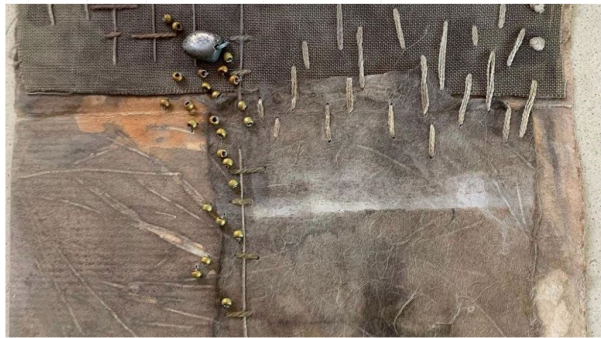
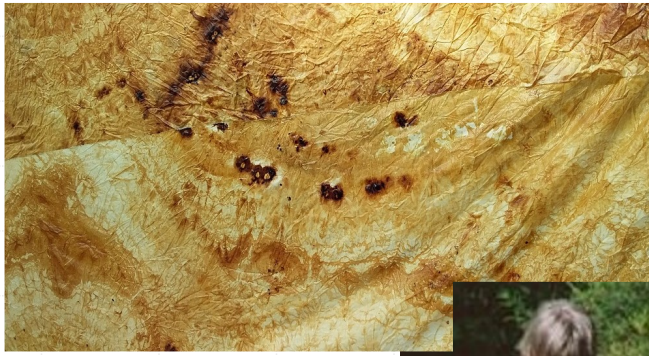


Hooked by Jenny Anderson



Designed & hooked by
Judith Stephens

YVONNE DALTON: Eco dyer and textile artist – South Australia



Internationally known artistat YVONNE DALTON was guest Speaker at the TIGHR Triennial Conference in Strathalbyn Oct 2012. Explaining her tree-wrapping dyeing method with an exhibition of the long lengths of dyed fabrics in amazing colours. This video was and impromptu recordings at another meeting in Strathalbyn in 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uexWjyAETAU> and the following conversation was recorded by Kira Mead of Global Textile Hub of Yvonne talking about her art and the process <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNI7TKl6DV0>

Below is a timeline of the Australian Rugmakers Group. The photo of Judith Stephens, Jo Franco and Miriam Miller was taken at the 2008 exhibition, Strathalbyn, South Australia.



2006 Judith Stephens and Jo went to the TIGHR Triennial in Wales (travelling home via Italy)

2008 a rug hooking exhibition was held in Strathalbyn, hosted by Judith's StrathMatters; the Guild was formed, and Australia nominated to be the next Host Country of TIGHR. Judith devised a way participants could take part in everything and would not have to make choices – important for those who have to travel such a long way!

2009 Judith Stephens, Jo, Miriam & Jacqui attended TIGHR in Kentucky for the handover. Judith and Jo stayed on for ATHA then drove from Boston to Nova Scotia and Cheticamp meeting rughookers along the way. Miriam and Jacqui also took the "long way home" to Australia visiting rug makers. Having had a taste of travelling and meeting up with other like-minded people, they have continued to do so each year.

2010 Jo flew to SA and drove with Judith and a group from Strathalbyn to Miriam's Rug Room in Narrawilly, NSW where Gene Shepherd was giving workshops. The first meeting of the Guild since its inception was held. Jo & Judith took Gene on a pre-arranged tour of the PowerHouse Museum archives to view antique hand hooked rugs.

2011 Judith S and Jo went to Gene's week-long rug hooking retreat in Cambria, California.

2012 TIGHR Triennial Strathalbyn South Australia – followed by workshops given by International TIGHR members to Australian rughookers who were not TIGHR members.

2013 Judith S and Jo travelled to the ATHA Conference, California meeting up with a group of TIGHR members.

2014 An Australian rug hooking gathering was hosted by StrathMatters in Strathalbyn with workshops and a second guild meeting.

2015 Judith S and Jo were part of a small group of Australians who attended the TIGHR Triennial in Victoria BC Canada.

2016 The Australian Rugmakers held an exhibition in Canberra, ACT and another general meeting. These group meetings becoming "biennials".

2018 Jo went to Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village for the Opening (online) of the GTH pilot exhibition in August. Miriam & Jacqui and a couple of others went to TIGHR/UK– so the 10-year celebration of the Australian Rugmakers Group had to be postponed.

2019 GTH held a Global online Hook-in in August at Rug Hooking Week and in October the StrathMatters hosted another rughooking gathering – exhibition and meeting in Strathalbyn to celebrate the Groups 10 years. **2020 – brought the Pandemic and everything had to go online but GTH was already there!**

"Coast to Coast" Exhibition

Canberra ACT 2016



Maggie Whyte (left) introducing artist Nancy Tingey, guest speaker who opened the Coast to Coast Exhibition.

Following the Heritage Festival Display and Open day demonstrations at The Wool Shed by Strathnairn Arts Association, works by Australian Rugmakers group members from across Australia were exhibited to illustrate how contemporary rug makers maintain their traditional roots of rug making while moving their work into the realm of textile and fibre art.

COAST TO COAST EXHIBITION,,,continued



Anne Schafer(Victoria) with her hooked bag. Jenny Andersen (Sth Australia) with one of her 2 long hooked hall runners. Dawn Hollins of the Bermagui & District U3A Rug Hookers with one of 7 large panels – hooked by first time rugmakers using recycled fabrics on a design drawn by a local artist depicting the Bermagui coastline. The 7 panels are now installed in the Bermagui Life Saving Club: See full story here -

<https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/2016/12/> and a follow up on an Australia Day award to Dawn
<https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/2017/01/>

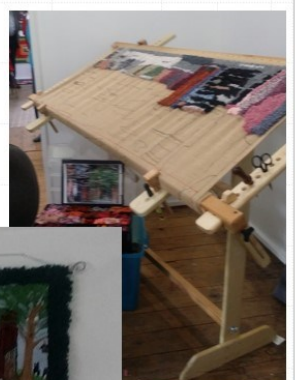
Maggie Whyte & Kerry Mobbs (Canberra), Gail Nichols and Maggie Hickey (New South Wales)



Solo Rugger - Andrea



Gail Nichols & her specially made rug hooking frame



Christine White and winning entries from WOW – World of Wearable Art, New Zealand

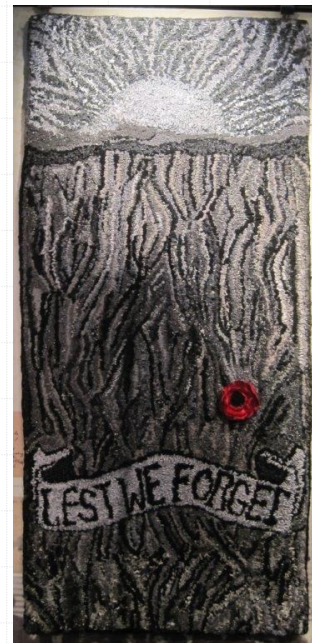
Community groups and networking:

Western Australia – Wanneroo Rugmakers: Facilitator, Jo Franco, accredited rug hooking instructor – McGown(USA)

This group started by Jo in 2010 has meet every Saturday morning 10am -1pm at the library for over 10 years. It is a free community group, open to anyone to learn rug hooking techniques and work on projects for the community.

"ANZAC" (2015) was designed by Jo Franco and members of the group helped her to complete the hooking. As it was a long piece, two people could work on it at the same time.

The finished piece was purchase by the Museum. Two other large works hooked by the group are in the City's art collection.



Jo Franco with one of 2 projects acquired by the City.

All members of the community including children are taught. Below is a typical first project using a pre-made grocery store bag.



"MARKET GARDEN" now hangs in a meeting room in the Mayoral chambers. Mayor Tracey Roberts (in black) is shown the proddy technique used to create the wall hanging that represent the field of lettuce shown in the photo.



The Wanneroo Rugmakers have been hooking, knitting and felting beanies to donate to the Alice Springs Beanie Festival for the last 6 years. <https://beaniefest.org/our-story/training-page>



The 25th Beanie Festival was held in June of 2021 - here are some links for more info about the beanies and the festival

<https://www.facebook.com/beaniefestival/>

2021 Winning Beanies: <https://beaniefest.org/past-events>

Do you wonder what takes place at the festival see program for 2021 here—
<https://beaniefest.org/uploads/pdfs/prog21final.pdf>

Alice Springs Beanie Festival 2015: each year the rug group enters this event held in the Northern Territory.
Tea Cosies can also be submitted – these are just some of the entries for 2015.



2012 "HANDING IT ON" –

a textile sculpture by Jo Franco, accepted into an exhibition of ceramic, wood and metal sculptures called *Walking with Totems*.

This piece represents her work with an intergenerational group passing on the knowledge of a traditional craft.

The antique rug (recycled clothing) right, connecting to a brightly coloured rug of synthetic materials. Coiled arms with stylized hands held tools from Jo's collection; antique tools on the right and new modern hooks on the left.



2013 Community Project

Proddy rugs approx. 1m in diameter using upcycled T-shirts were made with brightly coloured motifs of fruits and vegetable to represent the areas market garden history.



The kids love the shaggy plush feel of the proggy rugs and choose the one they want to sit on at story time in the library - this little guy couldn't make up his mind, seemed to like all of them.



Some of the rug making techniques used by the Wanneroo Rugmakers in Western Australia



2014 Mandurah Wearable Art

Wanneroo Rugmakers Entry was a finalist in the Eco Category. The dress was hooked on a synthetic curtain as backing using all manner of recycled dress material, home wares and wool yarn – as can be seen in the fringe. Designed by Jo and worked on by members of the group.



Anna (from Uruguay), explains that this represents her parents who danced the Tango.

Design drawn by Jo (left) improved on by Lesley (right) and hooked by Anna (centre)



Anna hooked this piece using T-shirts and recycled dress fabric.



The group help with individual projects

The two works on the left are designs by group members.

The pattern on the right was purchased in the USA and given a different "look" by the rug hooker here in Australia.



2016 Persephone; created and hooked by the Wanneroo Rugmakers.



Unveiled on International Rug Hooking Day, 4 Dec, 2016, by Kath (in white) with the help of the Mayor (in green)



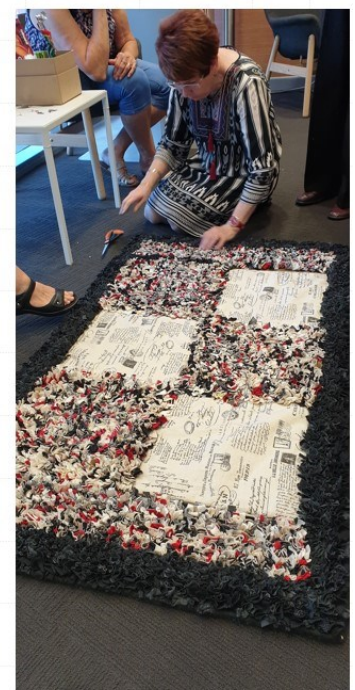
Soosie, the model for this piece, shown here from start to finish.



INTERNATIONAL RUG HOOKING DAY 2016

Wanneroo Rugmakers seen here with prodded Christmas trees gave rug hooking demonstrations, displayed work and... enjoyed Christmas lunch.

Rugs hooked and prodded by Group Members. Proddy is taught to beginners as it is simple and doesn't need a frame.



COMMERCIAL PATTERNS - dealing with problems...

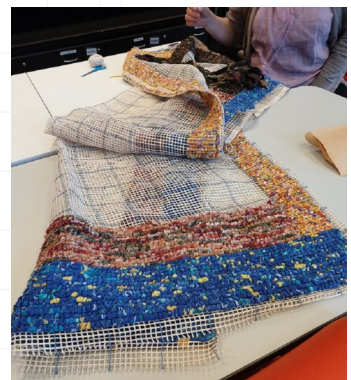


2019 Jo Franco accepted a commission to complete this piece purchased in the USA in the 1980's.

To test there was enough yarn after being stored for so long, Jo started with the basket before hooking in the outside border and discovering the pattern had been poorly drawn. Rather than altering the patterned border, she hooked as drawn. The Owner was happy with the finished rug but as a hooking instructor, Jo wasn't! Leftover yarn is shown above.

Below, another problem encountered when completing an old donated rug kit - Kath found an answer - free-form shape.

A large amount of mesh used for latch hook was donated to the group. Sharen decided to use it for a locker hooked hall runner. It's a slow process and takes up so much fabric; she is using recycled sheets and doona covers.



A donated Claire Murray Kit – this came from a long-held stash there was not enough wool to complete the original design so it was altered to free-form.



PERTH CRAFT FAIR:

For 5 years, Jo Franco attended the Perth Craft Fair in the city; 9am-4pm for 4 days each May. There was always a big crowd at the Guild booth because rug hooking was something NEW!

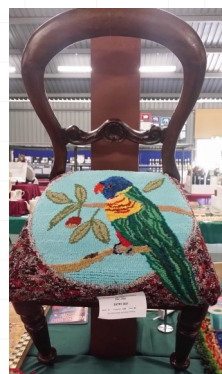
Australian Rugmakers stand at Perth Craft Fair 2016



One of the group members was there to give people a hands-on demonstration while Jo talked to everyone. The only problem was that visitors to the Fair came from all over the metropolitan area and the State and wanted to set up workshops!



May 2016 – Early Sunday morning the last day of the Craft Fair. The beginning of a marathon – hundreds of racers running by as Jo was headed into the Perth Convention Centre to set up for the last day of the Fair.



THE HEALING SIDE OF RUG HOOKING

"Hooked on Hessian":

Norma Hatchett (WA) - uses the "Rumpelstiltskin" tool for her children's afterschool classes, and also with groups of vision impaired and those with dementia. This technique is worked from the back. The children create their own drawings to hook. For the adults Norma coaxes memories from the residents, translates them into a design for the overall tapestry then traces the design onto Hessian panels that fit her standard frames.



This wall hanging is 5 frame widths across and 3 frame heights deep. (10ft x 4ft) Completed over 12 weeks.



Each panel is worked by a resident with a one-on-one helper, then the panels are stitched together by Norma.

Norma discovered rug hooking and this tool in 1989 when her 8yro son had a stroke and she was researching therapy for him.



"A Garden for All" – designed by Norma Hatchett, hooked by residents with dementia in a care home.

This is the back of the work. You can see here, where the pieces from each frame have been stitched together. Norma's story "The healing Side of Hooking" by Jo Franco, was published in Rug Hooking Magazine Sep/Oct 2012.

Click the link below to read Norma's story & more about Aussie Ruggers & TIGHR –

<https://tinyurl.com/smzjfn4a>

READ MORE : <https://tinyurl.com/smzjfn4a>

see pages 9 and 10 of the Australian Rugmaker Newsletter for the full story of Norma Hatchett's work with children, and residents of aged care home with dementia.



Solo rugmakers

Some Aussie rug hookers don't belong to a group because there just aren't any rug hookers close by; which is the case for Bobby George from Wangarratta, VIC.

That didn't stop Bobby from getting together with Maggie Whyte from Canberra, ACT to present "*The Story of Rughooking*" and give hands-on demonstrations at the Stitched Up Textile Festival & Community Textile Exhibition; "*Stitching a Story celebrating all forms of textile art & craft in and around Wangarratta in North East Victoria.*"

In regional Western Australia Wink Lindsay is teaching herself to rug hook, her inspiration is the flora of the national park which adjoins her farm.



Detail of our farm "Aquila" on the southern banks of the Preston River, from my Mumballup Map rug – March 2021

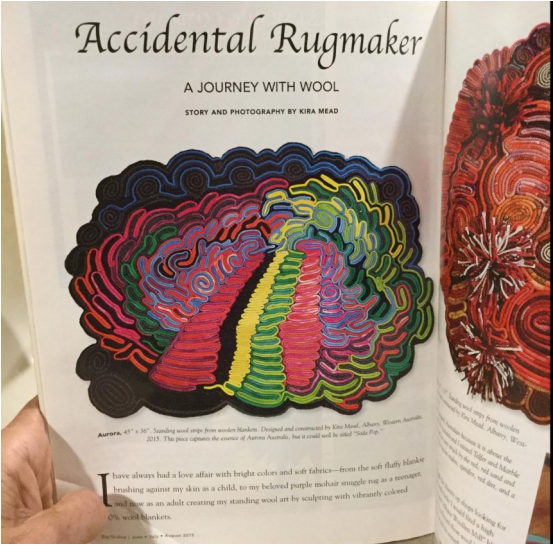
Rainbow Eucalypt designed and hooked by Wink Lindsay, Western Australia



KIRA MEAD, a fibre artist and member of the Team of Global Textile Hub, is another regional rugmaker in Western Australia.



KIRA MEAD





Social Groups:

Many rug hooking groups are in rural communities and rug hookers enjoy the social aspect within their own community; rarely are they looking outside the group to find instructors or join large Guilds.

If they want instruction, they seek help locally from the group leader, OR *YouTube*, and online groups.

Most prefer to go in their own creative direction taking a traditional craft into contemporary textile art.

Due to COVID restrictions, many of these social groups have given way to Facebook groups and meetings held on Skype and Zoom.



Lockdown & decluttering:

Lately there has been a resurgence of interest in the craft - maybe it has to do with lockdowns allowing more time for people to declutter ; they're finding old, unfinished projects (sometimes of deceased relatives) and now they have the time, inclination and, by turning to YouTube, a way to learn the technique to complete.

Re-cycling and sustainability resonates with most people, so offers of stashes to give away come into the ARG website and are matched with groups in close by areas.



More Lockdown projects

As a child Morgen learned latch hooking from her mother. During the lockdown, she used up her late mother's latch hook wool stash to create 2 large rugs.

Then purchased an Oxford punch needle and at this time is learning with the help of YouTube videos.

Here is the last of the left-over latch hook wool available FREE; you pay postage.

The following are her lockdown rugs.



2017 Before COVID19 Jo Franco, Judi Tompkins and Kira Mead had started working on a virtual exhibition and the question was often asked...

Why have a mixed media exhibition in a virtual gallery?

Our non-acceptance in events in the Northern Hemisphere prompted us to think of going virtual.


A Challenge was issued to all textile artists to participate in our pilot GTH exhibition in a virtual gallery.

Opening at Rug Hooking Week, Sauder Village, USA. It was a SUCCESS!
An invitation was extended for us to return the following year.

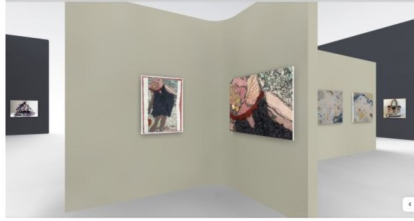
As it was not possible to repeat the event in 12 months, the Team held a "virtual" Hook-in; an online gathering of rug makers from around the globe, connecting again with Rug Hooking Week in Sauder Village, USA.

"Re-imagined" a Challenge with a Difference, 2018

This pilot virtual textile exhibition, was open to ALL rug makers and textile artists in Australia/New Zealand, Pacific Islands, in fact anywhere in the Southern Hemisphere.



There was no entry fee, size limit or costly shipping of entries, the entries were viewed online by Jurors in the USA and Canada. Selected Entries formed the base of a Virtual Exhibition.



The Brief: simply create an art work (2D or 3D) using any of the listed rugmaking techniques, embellished with specific non-rugmaking items.

This challenge was open to any fibre artist – not just rug makers – however at least one of the many rug making techniques shown on the "Call for Entries" form was to be included and be visible in the image of the artwork, along with items from the list of required embellishments by category.



ArtWear Publishing (Aust) featured this virtual event, "Re-imagined" a mixed media exhibition, in the March 2019 issue of "Embellish".

Pilot: Mixed Media Textile Exhibition in a virtual gallery: Rug Hooking with embellishments



"Re-imagined" a Challenge with a Difference – a mixed media exhibition in a virtual Gallery



2019 Global Rug Hub: presented at Rug Hooking Week, Sauder Village, Ohio, USA

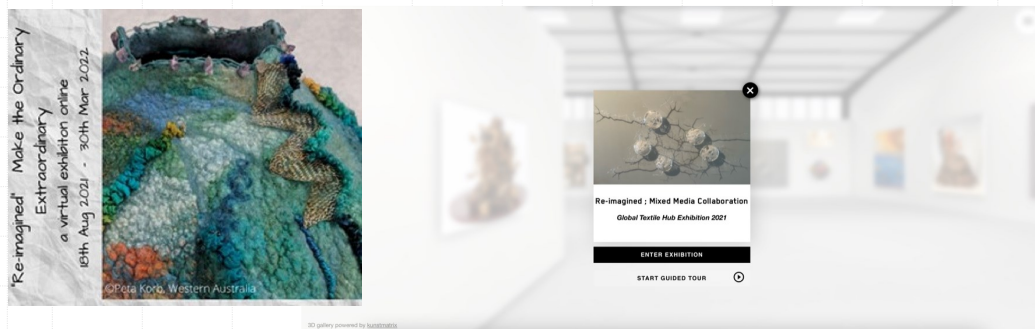
March 2020 A Call for Entries for a second virtual exhibition by the Global Textile Hub went out with images of works to be submitted by April 30th 2021 and the Exhibition opened mid August 2021. This is a live link to enter the virtual gallery <https://tinyurl.com/esz4bpw2>

Challenges in a Virtual Gallery

A second virtual exhibition; a challenge of collaboration between artists of different disciplines, one or more to be a textile artist; then came the added challenge Covid19. There was no rug making requirement.

However the Jurors selected several entries that did include rugmaking techniques.

You can enter the virtual gallery here <https://tinyurl.com/esz4bpw2>

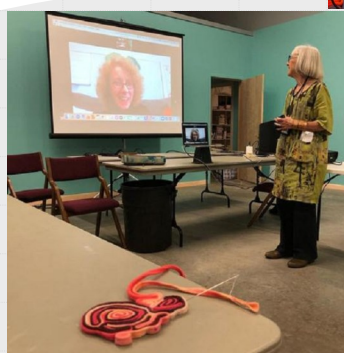
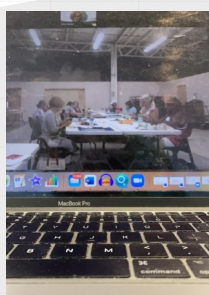


GLOBAL TEXTILE HUB's
"Re-imagined" a Collaboration
with a Difference: Make the
Ordinary Extraordinary

Opening night for the exhibition in
the virtual gallery – at Rug Hooking
Week, Sauder Village, Ohio. USA

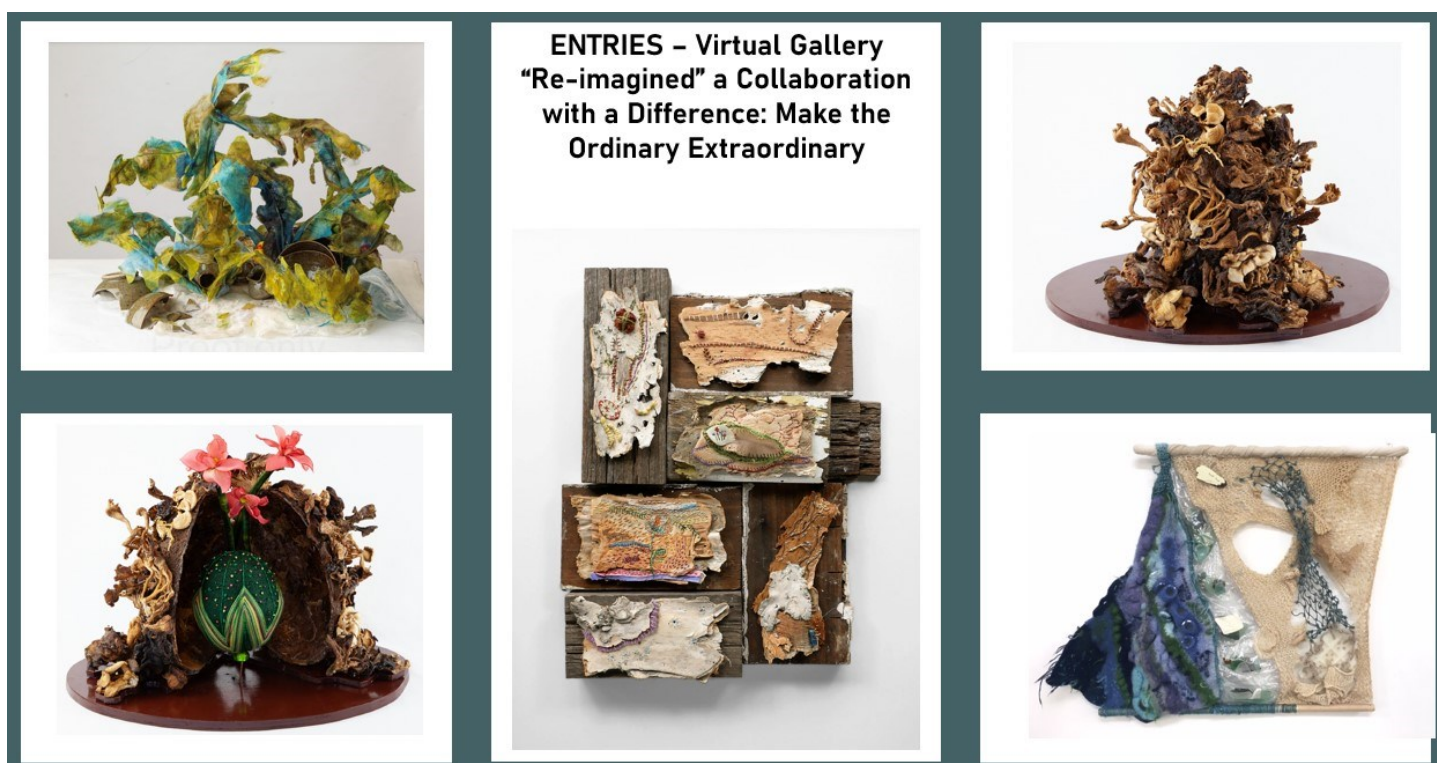


KIRA MEAD's – ONLINE WORKSHOP:
Rug Hooking Week, Sauder Village, Ohio, USA



Here are just a few entries in the 2021 Exhibition in the virtual gallery. See more and the artwork statements, in *Global Textile Hub: Virtual Exhibitions & More...*

<https://tinyurl.com/ujh4fsk4>

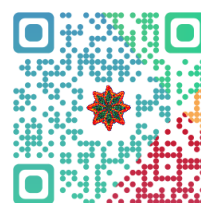


Virtual(Cloud based) vs Bricks & Mortar Galleries

The impermanence of a virtual gallery led to our desire to publish ***Global Textile Hub: Virtual Exhibitions & More...***

as a record for the Team and to acknowledge the support of our International Jurors and Supporters.

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalTextileHub>



We hope you have enjoyed this recap of our presentation given to the members of TIGHR
(The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers)