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CRAFTS ASSOCIATION of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Work can be viewed at the following venues:

- Craft House Gallery, 1386 Cartwright Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC
phone: (604) 687-7270.
- Woodworker's Gallery, Denman Street, Vancouver, BC

Artist's Statement

My love for textiles started early in my life and has taken me on an exciting journey. While all forms of textiles have interested me since childhood, it's relatively recently that I have discovered my real passion -- weaving.

Largely self-taught, since 1995 I have read voraciously and sought out workshops with fibre artists whom I admire and who have inspired my own work, most notably, Kay Sekimachi, Liz Williamson and Catherine Muerdter. Through their example and their work I have learned an important lesson: a strong foundation in weaving is a good thing, but using that foundation -- which comes only from dogged work, lots of patience, and total dedication -- as a starting point for experimentation brings something better. Something that is totally fresh and original.

With just six years of weaving behind me I am still largely working on the foundation part, and enjoying occasional bursts of experimentation tremendously. Above all, I love the endless possibilities, the process, and the deep fulfillment I get from creating something functional and beautiful from, essentially, a bunch of string or a handful of fleece.

Image List

1. Red scarf, handwoven silk & wool, 10" X 70"
2. Green Scarf, handwoven silk & wool, 12" X 62"
3. Bubble scarf, handwoven silk & wool, 12" X 72"

Process

The focus of my weaving has been to create cloth with texture. I have been experimenting with the way different fibres, weaving structures and finishing techniques interact to create bumps and pleats.

The scarves pictured here are among my earliest experiments and are woven with fine wool and silk on either 4 or 8 harnesses.

On the loom, the cloth is woven very loosely. After it is taken off the loom it is washed in very hot water. During washing the wool shrinks but the silk doesn't, causing the silk to pucker in interesting ways. The finished cloth can lose up to 50% of its length and width in the finishing process.