



# World of Threads Festival 2023

**Local, National & International  
Contemporary Fibre & Textile Arts**

**Dates: Tues. Oct. 10, 2023 - Sun. Jan. 14, 2024**

**Admission: FREE!**

**Opening Reception: Sat. Oct. 14, 2023, 1 - 3 pm**

**Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre  
2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6L 2G6**

**[www.worldofthreadsfestival.com](http://www.worldofthreadsfestival.com)**

# New Extended Days and Hours!

Admission: FREE!

Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre  
2302 Bridge Road,  
Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6L 2G6

**Dates & Hours:**  
Open Every Day Except Holidays

2023

Oct 14 - Dec 29, 2023

Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Sun. 12 - 5 pm

**Holidays CLOSED**

December 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2023

**New Years CLOSED**

Dec. 30, 31, 2023 and Jan 1, 2024

2024

Jan 2 - 14, 2024

Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 12 - 4 pm

**Last Day:**

Sun. Jan. 14, 2024  
12 - 4 pm



Top: Susan Farquhar, Anna Wagner-Ott.  
Bottom: Helena Scheffer, Lorna Livey.

## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Town of Oakville is located on the treaty and traditional lands (Treaty 14 and Treaty 22) of the Mississaugas of the Credit, part of the Anishinaabe Nation that extends from the Niagara peninsula across Hamilton, Halton and Toronto to the Rouge River Valley. We thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations for sharing their traditional territory with us. We also recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous people on this land.

# Welcome to Festival 2023!

We are back for the first festival since 2018! After having to cancel Festival 2020 and 2022 because of Covid, we are thrilled to finally return. For Festival 2023 we're showing 426 artworks by 115 artists. 114 of the artists are women. The World of Threads Festival is a leading international showcase of contemporary fibre and textile art. We're a not-for-profit initiative with charitable status run by a few dedicated volunteers. We believe that some of the most exciting and compelling artwork being made today is happening in the field of fibre arts. In our current age where tech companies would like to replace artists with automated AI generated imagery, making art using fibre and textile methods becomes a *radical gesture*. It's an affirmation of *human* making and creativity. Festival 2023 artists come from Canada, England, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Uruguay, USA, US Virgin Islands and Wales.

## Synchronistic Curating

Something that's different about World of Threads Festival is that we let the art guide us. Festival curators Gareth Bate and Dawne Rudman *don't* have predetermined curatorial ideas or impose concepts on the artists. Each new festival is a blank slate. Shows develop entirely out of the submissions we receive. For Festival 2023 we looked through over 3500 images and hundreds of submissions to develop these shows. We looked for connections and common themes. Often artists are on the same wavelength during a particular period. Over time, the exhibition themes emerged and became clear to us. This method has been very successful and has resulted in compelling and unique exhibitions over many years. We are excited to finally share these new shows with you.

### Festival Chair & Curator

Dawne Rudman

dawne@worldofthreadsfestiva.com

### Festival Curator & Designer

Gareth Bate

www.garethbate.com

Instagram: @garethbate



Row 1: *Flow*, 2018 Exhibition, *The Red and The Black*, 2014 Exhibition.  
Row 2: *Late in the Season*, 2016 Exhibition, *Installations*, 2014 Exhibition.  
Row 3: *Cosmic Geometry*, 2016 Exhibition, *Quiet Zone*, 2012 Exhibition.  
Row 4: *Memento mori*, 2012 Exhibition, *De rerum natura*, 2012 Exhibition.  
Exhibitions Curated by Gareth Bate & Dawne Rudman.

# Festival Background

We began in Oakville, Ontario in 1994 as a single exhibition. In 1998 it expanded to become a full festival. In 2009 we emerged as an international festival, with artists submitting from around the world. Now, the festival draws visitors from around the region and internationally. Festival 2018 attracted over 60,000 visitors and three-quarters of the participating artists attended in person.

## Check out our website, newsletter and social media!

On our website, Festival Organizers and Curators Dawne Rudman and Gareth Bate have built a comprehensive archive of 135 interviews with some of the most exciting fibre artists in the world. We have become a unique hub for fibre and textile art with a current following in 97 countries. [Subscribe for updates](#) (it's free) on our website [www.worldofthreadsfestival.com](http://www.worldofthreadsfestival.com). Follow us on Instagram [@worldofthreads](#) and like our Facebook Page. When sharing artworks and exhibitions on your social media please *credit the artists and curators by name*. Tag them if possible.

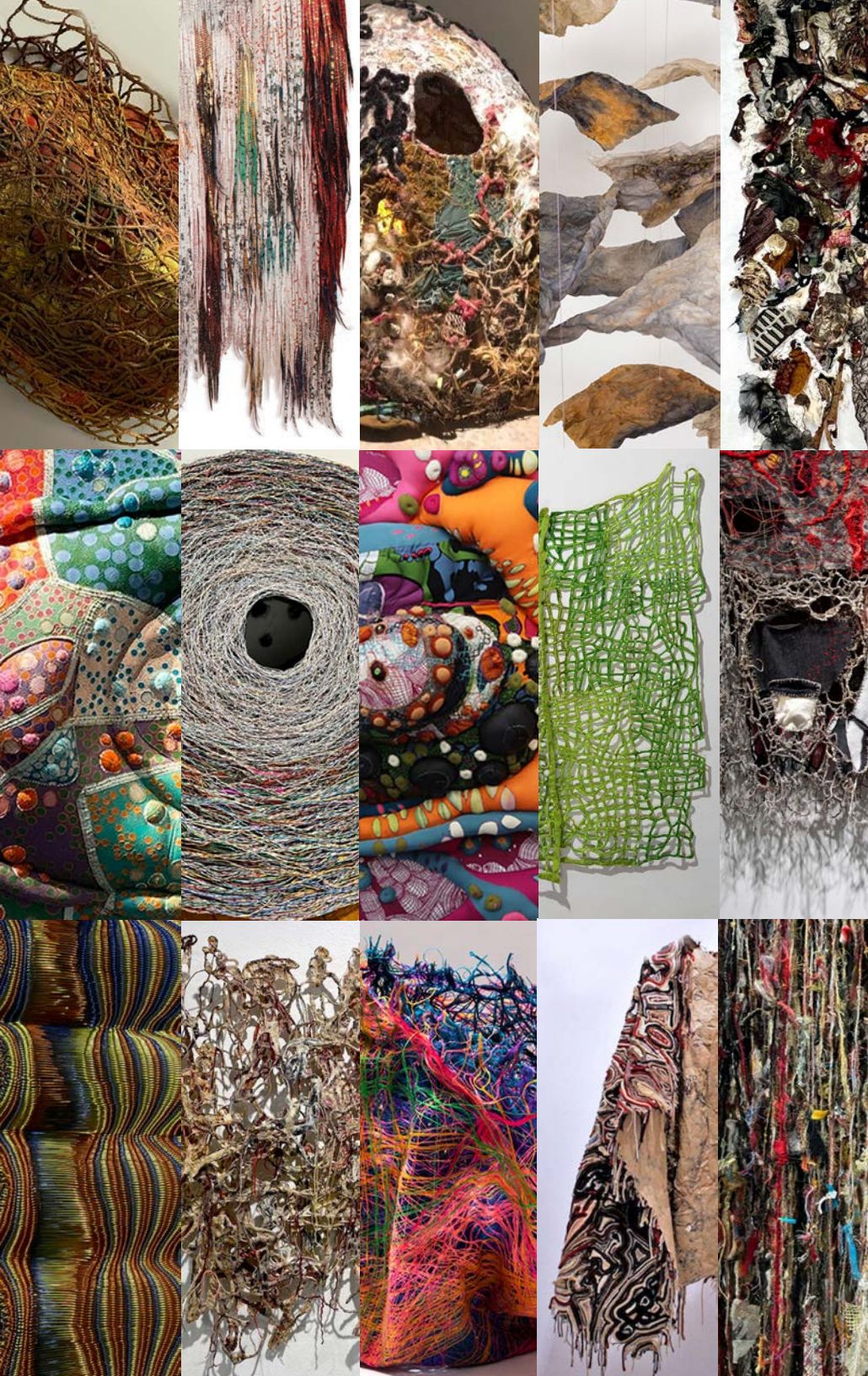
Use [#worldofthreads](#) and [#worldofthreadsfestival](#).

Over the years we have exhibited artists from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Iran, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Northern Ireland, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Wales.

## Awards:

- **World of Threads Festival** was the winner of Ontario Culture Days: *2023 Spotlight Recognition Program: People's Choice Award*.
- **Dawne Rudman** received the *Community Spirit Arts Award 2016*, recognizing an individual that through their volunteerism has made an invaluable contribution to the Oakville community and contributed to nurturing and enhancing the arts.
- **Dawne Rudman** and **Gareth Bate** received the *Community Impact Arts Award 2015* for bringing global attention to Oakville and elevating the fibre-textile art form around the world.
- **World of Threads Festival** was the winner of Oakville's prestigious *Community Spirit Award for Volunteerism in the Arts 2007*.
- **Dawne Rudman** received *Oakville Volunteer of the Year 2007* for her work organizing festival exhibitions.





# Amorphous

## The Gallery

Our major group exhibition is all about abstracted natural elements. The artworks evoke organic things such as plants, leaves, trees, roots, seeds, reefs, rocks, feathers, algae, nests, soil, sediment, clouds and shells. They recall processes like new life, growth and decay. Although they evoke these elements, the artists do so in a non-literal way through *abstraction*. Many of the works are made using repurposed or recycled materials. They are filled with life and vitality. They are amorphous and bursting off the wall as they lunge out towards you. Works range in scale from massive to tiny and use a huge variety of materials and fibre and textile techniques. This exhibition is the spiritual successor to our 2012 show *De rerum natura (On The Nature of Things)*.

### Curators:

• **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

### Artists:

• **Canada:** British Columbia: Vancouver: Thomas Roach, Victoria: Martina Edmondson, Ontario: Barry's Bay: Anna Wagner-Ott, Burlington: Svetlana Turov, Caledon: Elizabeth Babyn, Howe Island: Leisa Rich, Peterborough: G. Annie Whitty, Richmond Hill: Melanie Siegel, Simcoe: Mary Ann Rich, St. Catharines: Hannah Rothschild, Toronto: Elaine Whittaker, Sarah Elizabeth Creskey, Susan Farquhar, Walter's Falls: Julia White.

• **India:** Goa: Gopika Nath.

• **Mexico:** Jalisco: Chapala: Deborah Kruger.

• **New Zealand:** Whanganui: Kate Sellar.

• **South Korea:** Seoul: Eunsun An.

• **USA:** Illinois: Forest Park: Gretchen Jankowski, Oak Park: Karen Gubitza, Oregon: Salem: Darilyn Bennett, Rhode Island: Cranston: Sonja Czekalski, Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh: Margery Amdur, Stefanie Zito.



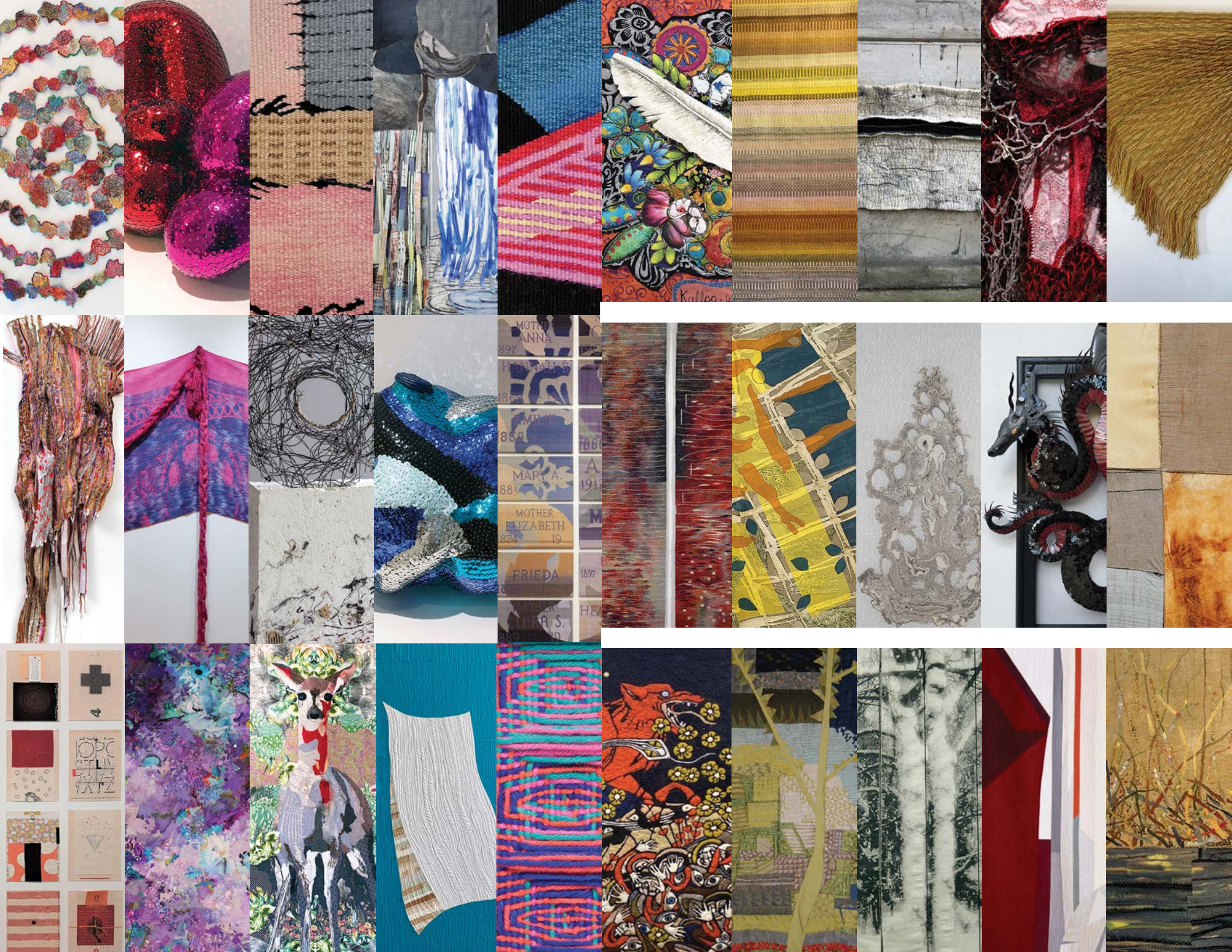
Top: Deborah Kruger, Bottom: Gretchen Jankowski.

**Artwork on previous pages from left to right:**

**Top Row:** Margery Amdur, Susan Farquhar, Stefanie Zito, Svetlana Turov, Gopika Nath, Anna Wagner-Ott, Deborah Kruger, Julia White, Martina Edmondson, Mary Ann Rich.

**Middle Row:** Leisa Rich, Hannah Rothschild, Martina Edmondson, Anna Wagner-Ott, Margery Amdur, Gretchen Jankowski, Elaine Whittaker, Gretchen Jankowski, Eunsun An, Elizabeth Babyn.

**Bottom Row:** Sarah Elizabeth Creskey, Kate Sellar, Karen Gubitzi, Thomas Roach, Annie Whitty, Darilyn Bennett, Sonja Czekalski, Hannah Rothschild, Sonja Czekalski, Melanie Siegel.





# Solo Shows

## The Corridor Galleries

Solo Shows presents outstanding bodies of work by 50 artists.

### Curators:

- **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

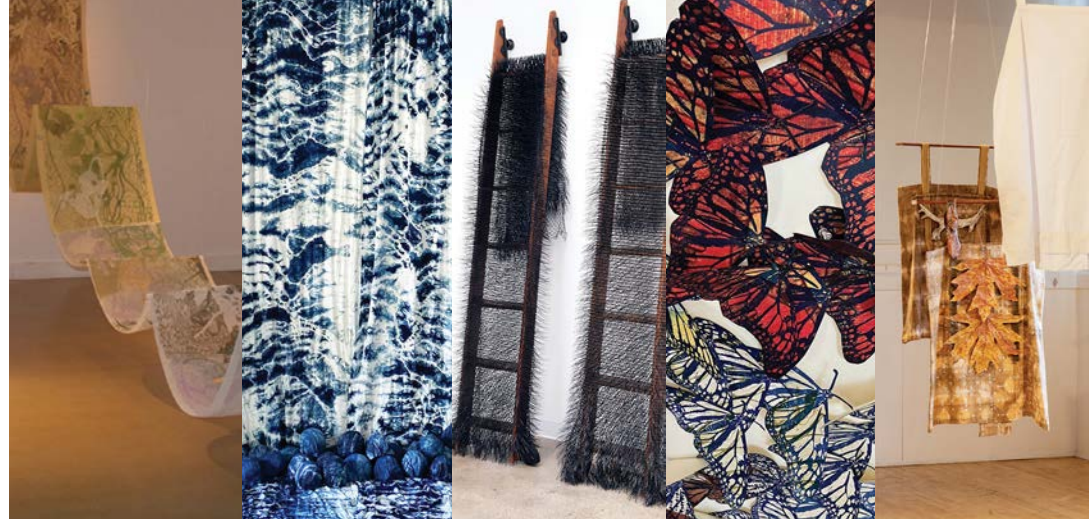
### Artists:

- **Canada:** British Columbia: Armstrong: Catherine Phillips, Kaslo: Robin Wiltse, Pender Island: Susan Purney Mark. Nova Scotia: Granville Beach: Penny Berens. Ontario: Burlington: Svetlana Turov, Linda VanWyk, Caledon: Elizabeth Babyn, Dundas: Marla Panko, Lorraine Roy, Hamilton: Breeyn McCarney, Karen Thiessen, Howe Island: Leisa Rich, Thunder Bay: Tuija Hansen, Tiny: Tina Poplawski, Toronto: Jen Arron, Victoria Carley, Jennifer Coghill, Loretta Faveri, Margaret Glew, Roxanna Kantarjian, Lorna Livey, Jane LowBeer, Sam Mogelonsky, Carolyn Murphy, Tweed: Marta Mouka. Quebec: Beaconsfield: Helena Scheffer, Montreal: Louise Lemieux Berube, Quebec City: Suzanne Paquette.
- **England:** Hampshire: New Forest: Sarah Waters, Wiltshire: Devizes: Christine Seager.
- **Finland:** Hämeenlinna: Päivi Vaarula.
- **Hungary:** Budapest: Eszter Bornemisza.
- **Israel:** Ramat-Gan: Maya Chaimovich.
- **Spain:** Basque Country: Gipuzkoa: Pasaia: Lourdes Elizalde.
- **USA:** California: Berkeley: George-Ann Bowers, Cameron Park: Deb Cashatt, The Sea Ranch: Mirka Knaster, Santa Barbara: Linda Kollofski. Michigan: Beverly Hills: Heather Macali, West Bloomfield: Anna Kocherovsky, Missouri: Columbia: C. Pazia Mannella, New York: Trumansburg: Denise Kooperman. North Carolina: Charlotte: Mary Tuma, Durham: BR Goldstein, Ohio: Cleveland Heights: Deborah Silver. Pennsylvania: Philadelphia: Margery Amdur. Texas: Houston: Szilvia Revesz. Virginia: Manassas: Tea Okropiridze. Washington: Olympia: Mary Lane.
- **Wales:** Cardiff: Ruth Harries.





Margaret Glew.



**Artwork on previous pages from left to right:**

**Top Row:** Maya Chaimovich, Susan Purney Mark, Deb Cassatt, Loretta Faveri, Karen Thiessen, Mary Tuma, Sam Mogelonsky, Mary Lane, Jane LowBeer, Mary Lane.

**Middle Row:** Tea Okropiridze, Margery Amdur, Margaret Glew, George-Ann Bowers, Roxanna Kantarjian, Margery Amdur, C Pazia Mannella, Ruth Harries, Sam Mogelonsky, Deborah Silver.

**Bottom Row:** Linda VanWyk, Jen Arron, Helena Schaffer, Tina Poplawski, Christine Seager, Marla Panko, Maya Chaimovich, Leisa Rich, Carolyn Murphy, Heather Macali.

**Artwork on previous pages from left to right:**

**Top Row:** Lorraine Roy, Tuija Hansen, Sarah Waters, Elizabeth Babyn, Päivi Vaarula, Eszter Bornemisza, Eszter Bornemisza, Lourdes Elizalde, Linda Kollofski, Suzanne Paquette.

**Middle Row:** Anna Kocherovsky, Marta Mouka, Szilvia Revesz, Breeyn McCarney, BR Goldstein, Svetlana Turov, Catherine Phillips, Carolyn Murphy, Mirka Knaster, Lorna Livey.

**Bottom Row:** Robin Wiltse, Victoria Carley, Louise Lemieux Berube, Roxanna Kantarjian, Penny Berens, Svetlana Turov, Jennifer Coghill, Denise Kooperman, Linda VanWyk, Tea Okropiridze.





# Installations

Display Area Gallery, Entrance and Back Lobbies, Open Spaces, Front Windows  
 Throughout the building you'll find installations and large wall-works using a huge variety of materials. This includes our large exhibition space The Display Area Gallery.

## Curators:

- **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

## Artists:

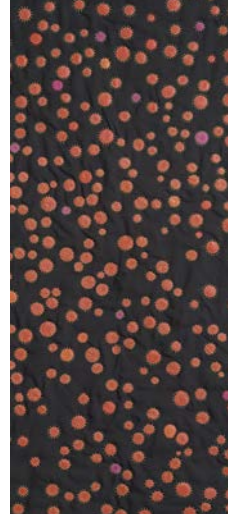
- **Canada:** British Columbia: Pender Island: Joanna Rogers, Ontario: Cambridge: Judy Major-Girardin, London: Dagmar Kovar, Manitoulin Island: Judith E Martin, Toronto: Barbara Cook, Kelley Aitken, Lorna Livey, Elaine Whittaker, Warkworth: Ixchel Suarez.
- **France:** Seine-Port: Brigitte Amarger.
- **USA:** California: Port Hueneme: Bonnie J. Smith, Michigan: West Bloomfield: Boisali Biswas, New Jersey: Maplewood: Joan Diamond, Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh: Carolyn Carson, US Virgin Islands: St. Croix, Christiansted: Theda Sandiford.

## Artwork on previous pages from left to right:

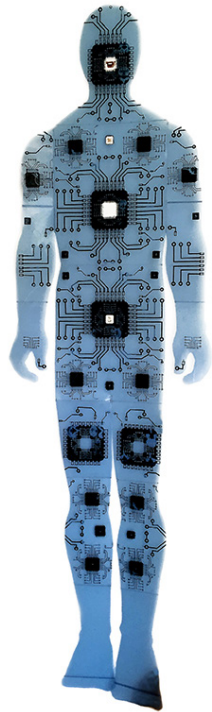
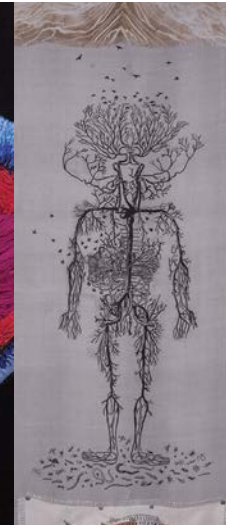
**Top Row:** Judy Major-Girardin, Bonnie J Smith, Theda Sandiford, Lorna Livey, Joanna Rogers, Joan Diamond, Theda Sandiford, Judy Major-Girardin, Brigitte Amarger, Judith E Martin.

**Middle Row:** Joanna Rogers, Brigitte Amarger, Barbara Cook, Joan Diamond, Judith E Martin, Boisali Biswas, Dagmar Kovar, Bonnie J Smith, Ixchel Suarez, Lorna Livey.

**Bottom Row:** Ixchel Suarez, Elaine Whittaker & Kelley Aitken, Lorna Livey, Judith E Martin, Joan Diamond, Brigitte Amarger, Barbara Cook, Elaine Whittaker & Kelly Aitken, Carolyn Carson, Judith E Martin.



Top Row: Bonnie J. Smith, Brigitte Amarger,  
Bottom Row: Brigitte Amarger, Elaine Whittaker  
and Kelley Aitken.



# Forever Covid

## The Corridor Galleries

This small group exhibition commemorates the Covid-19 pandemic. The lives of everyone in the world were disrupted, and some of us were changed forever. Cities appeared empty as the world ground to a halt. We sheltered in place. *Seven million people around the world died.* After three years, we now live in different worlds. For many, Covid no longer exists and life went back to “normal”. Some still take precautions like masking, and the medically vulnerable continue to isolate. For others it was all a hoax. Most of us took the vaccines, while some refused. What are the long-term effects? Did the world really change, or will the Covid pandemic ultimately disappear from general consciousness like the 1918 pandemic? For some, these lockdown months - or years, were an opportunity for *self-reflection*. What do I really want from my life? Who do I *want* to spend time with? Some people changed jobs, learned new skills, or worked from home - for good. Some people were exploited for labour, while others thrived. Imagery and themes in this show include corona viruses, variants of concern, face masks, social distancing, social bubbles, isolation, mass graves and the repetitive days of lockdown. Some artists were productive during the pandemic years and were able to focus on their work. Artists are often quite happy to be alone in a room, but perhaps not *that* alone.

### Curators:

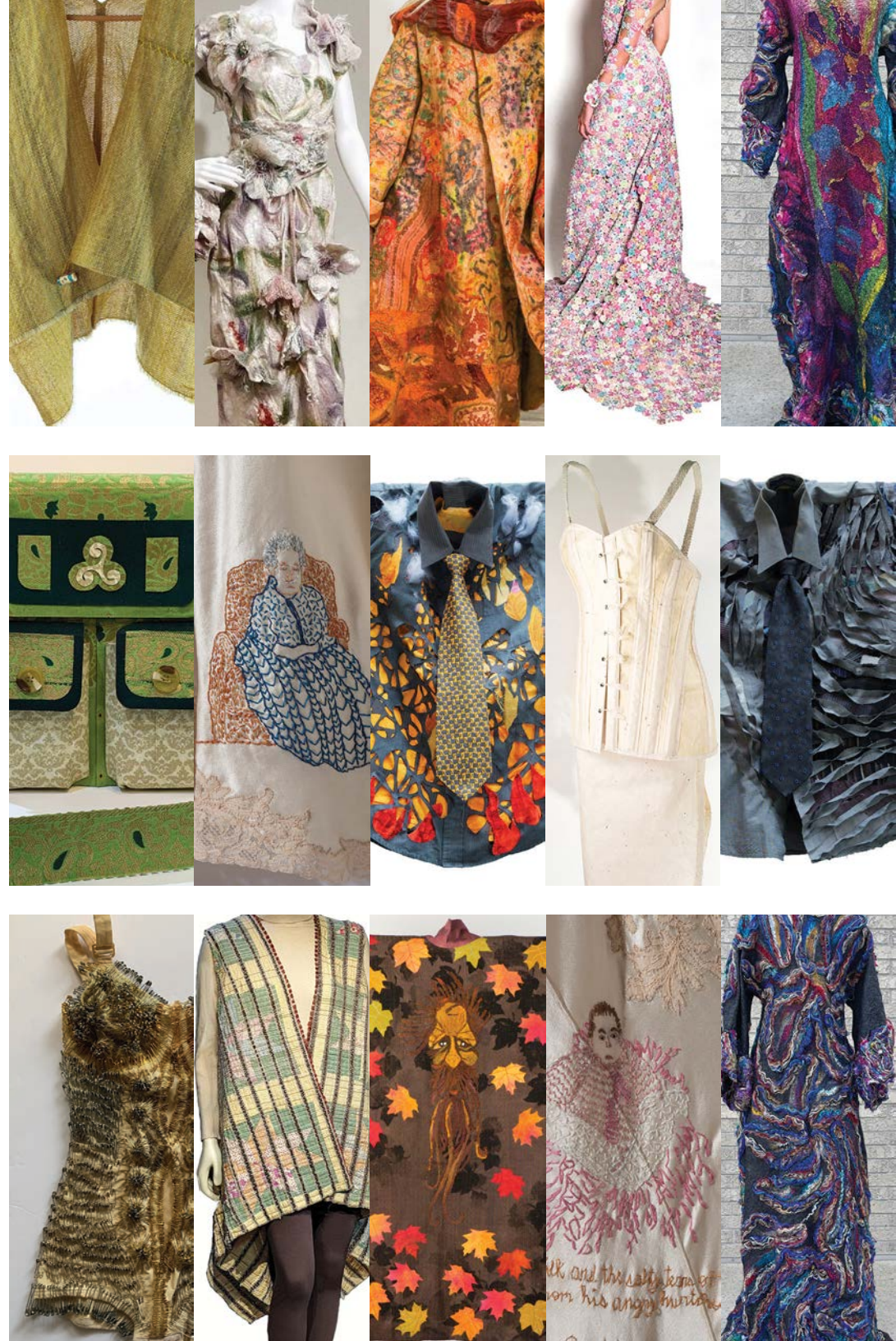
- **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

### Artists:

- **Canada:** British Columbia: Nelson: Maggie Tchir, Ontario: Toronto: Susan Avishai, Bernadette Badali, Tracy Gorman, Michèle Guevara, Honey Mitchell, Leanne Powers, Elaine Whittaker.
- **Uruguay:** Montevideo: Carrasco: Alison Schwabe.

### Artwork from left to right:

**Top Row:** Alison Schwabe, Elaine Whittaker, Alison Schwabe, Tracy Gorman, Honey Mitchell. **Middle Row:** Tracy Gorman, Bernadette Badali, Leanne Powers, Maggie Tchir, Michèle Guevara. **Bottom Row:** Michèle Guevara, Elaine Whittaker, Alison Schwabe, Bernadette Badali, Susan Avishai.





# Cat Walk III

## The Corridor Galleries

This is our third exhibition focused on fashion, wearable-art, clothing and accesories. Clothing has always provided the most clearly recognized use for fibre and textiles. These artists take it to a whole new level.

### Curators:

- **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

### Artists:

- **Canada:** British Columbia: Victoria: Ilka Bauer, Ontario: Brampton: Hafsa Murtaza, Manitoulin Island: Dani Ortman, Mulmur: Pat Burns-Wendland, Ottawa: Gayle Kells, Port Robinson: Chris Lyszak, Richmond Hill: Melanie Siegel, Elina Ten, Toronto: Susan Avishai, Tracy Gorman, Miriam Kaufman, Saskatchewan: Saskatoon: Leeann Kroetsch.
- **England:** Kent: Tunbridge Wells: Anne Kelly.
- **Netherlands:** Vlaardingen: Marijke van Welzen.
- **USA:** California: La Mesa: Marty Ornish, Richmond: Roz Ritter, San Bernadina: Cindy Rinne, Iowa: Fairfield: Judy Bales, Ohio: Powell: Kathy Knapp.



### Artwork on previous pages from left to right:

- Top Row:** Miriam Kaufman, Elina Ten, Leeann Kroetsch, Marty Ornish, Elina Ten, Chris Lyszak, Cindy Rinne, Roz Ritter, Cindy Rinne, Judy Bales.
- Middle Row:** Hafsa Murtaza, Roz Ritter, Susan Avishai, Ilka Bauer, Susan Avishai, Marijke van Welzen, Kathy Knapp, Elina Ten, Dani Ortman, Anne Kelly.
- Bottom Row:** Gayle Kells, Marty Ornish, Pat Burns-Wendland, Roz Ritter, Elina Ten, Pat Burns-Wendland, Marty Ornish, Tracy Gorman, Leeann Kroetsch, Melanie Siegel.



# Wings

## The Corridor Galleries

This small group exhibition features artworks about birds. In our synchronistic curating method we found that beautiful birds were a repeating motif in several submissions.

### Curators:

- **Canada:** Ontario: Toronto: Gareth Bate, Oakville: Dawne Rudman.

### Artists:

- **Canada:** British Columbia: Vancouver: Barbara Heller, Ontario: Howe Island: Leisa Rich, Markham: Kelly McLeod.
- **England:** Kent: Tunbridge Wells: Anne Kelly.
- **USA:** Arizona: Tempe: Carol Eckert.

### Artwork from left to right:

Anne Kelly, Leisa Rich, Kelly McLeod, Barbara Heller, Carol Eckert.



Eszter Bornemisza and Margery Amdur.



## Is the artwork for sale? Yes!

A lot of the artwork on show is available to buy. Where else would you find a selection of over 426 fibre/textile artworks all in one place? Here's a chance to own a unique piece of fibre/textile art.

### How do I purchase a piece?

1. Make a note of the artist and title of the work.
2. Contact Dawne at [dawne@worldofthreadsfestival.com](mailto:dawne@worldofthreadsfestival.com) or by cell phone 905-808-5856. Call or text. No voicemail.

### How do I find out the prices?

The attendant in the Gallery, and staff members at the front reception desk both have a price list on hand.

# Acknowledgements

## Festival Organizers:

- **Dawne Rudman:** Festival Chair and Curator, Administrator, Newsletter and Social Media, Shipping, Labels.
- **Gareth Bate:** Festival Curator, Photographer, Designer: Logo, Print and Digital Brochures, Website, Instagram Reels.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the festival a great success. Congratulations to the 115 artists who have created the 426 spectacular works displayed as part of Festival 2023. Thank you to the Town of Oakville for the Cultural Grant, and sponsorship from the Fibre Art Network. Thanks also to the over 260 artists who submitted work and paid the submission fee, which helps us to fund the festival.

## Festival Installers:

**Gareth Bate, Melissa Bieman, Chris Booth, Freda Cott, Heidi Daughney, Caren DesBrisay, Carolyn Dinsmore, Jeanne Hamill, Alan Goulart, Margaret Kirwin, Dianne Pearce, Dawne Rudman, Carol Stanley, Jean Towell.**

- **Melissa Bieman:** Festival Vice Chair.
- **Carol Stanley:** Coordinator of Volunteers and Gallery Sitters.
- **Caren DesBresey:** Art Bus Tour and Festival Helper.
- **Albert Fuchigami:** Artist Portrait Photographer.
- **Jeanne Hamill:** Reception.

**Thanks to: Tonia Di Risio, Alan Goulart, Dianne Pearce, Susan Amaral, Bernadette Ward, Graham Jackson.** All artists who helped install their own work. All the volunteer Gallery Sitters. Admin, Culture and Operations staff at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre. Oakville Arts Council and the Town of Oakville. **Carolyn Cross, Chris Selman, Lynna Nguyen.** Loan of Judy's: Oakville Museum, Museums of Burlington & local artists.

