

Ginger Stoops

Artist | Teacher | Presenter

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Summary:

My journey with fiber arts began at age eight. My serious deep dive into the world of fiber arts began at age 20 and has continued for almost 40 years as a teacher, artist, and historian of textile and fiber arts of all types and from many cultures.

Artist Statement:

The growth of biophilic design delights my very soul, and my latest textile adventures blend elements of the natural world into each piece through colors, organic shapes, and found pieces of the natural world. I am still drawn to the Mid Century modern aesthetic, which also incorporated elements of nature through color and texture. Look for the line and interaction between man and nature in my work.

Mediums and Techniques:

My favorite mediums include fibers of all types. I draw from the many techniques I have studied, sometimes combining them in the same piece. My themes tend to follow a continuum from natural to man made, incorporating a little from both worlds.

Juried Shows

- 2008/2009 Featured Artist at Lewis Mountain Herb Festival, Manchester, Ohio
- 2024 Mankind Murals - Solar Eclipse Exhibition, Mansfield, Ohio

Group Exhibitions

- 2017 Green Room Gallery - Artists Showcase and Demonstration
- 2018 La Luna Membrane Constellation Exhibition - solo piece
- 2018 La Luna Membrane Constellation Exhibition - Collaboration with Victoria Hoeffler
- 2020 La Luna Membrane Constellation Exhibition - Solo piece
- 2024 La Luna Membrane Constellation Exhibition - Collaboration with Victoria Hoeffler

Markets, Fairs, and Festivals

- 2006-2009 Lewis Mountain Herb Festival
- 2018 Artiststreet Mansfield, Ohio
- 2024 Mansfield Richland County Public Library Artist's Showcase
- 2024 Liberty Park Mansfield Summer Sunfest
- 2024 Man-A-Fest, Mansfield, Ohio

Fiber Arts Demonstrations and Public Education

- 1987- Present Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) Fiber Arts Historical Reenactment, textile archeology projects, and public educational demonstrations
- 2024 Midsummer Flowers and Fun event at Natives in Harmony, Marengo Ohio
- 2023 Bethlehem Journey Experience, Galion, Ohio
- 2017 Hosted a regional medieval fiber arts symposium for historical reenactors, Mansfield, Ohio
- 2014-2020 Fiber arts demonstrations as part of Maple Syrup Festival and other events as a Volunteer at Malabar Farm State Park, Perrysville, Ohio

Teaching Experience

Currently teaching fiber arts classes at:

- Tin Can Chandelier, Ashland, OH
- Olivesburg General Store, Ashland, OH
- City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department Community Programming
- Mansfield Richland County Public Library

Education

Ohio University 1984-1987 Chemistry Major, Psychology Minor

1990 Basket making taught by a traditional Cherokee basket maker, weekend course, Ripley, WV

1990-1993 Apprenticed to a master spinner and teacher Jo Ann Powers, Columbus, OH

Apprenticeship Topics Included:

- Spinning to a standard on a wheel
- Drop spindling - history and techniques
- Supported Spindling
- Spinning with a distaff
- Spinning wool, including the handling of fine merinos
- Flax spinning
- Cotton spinning
- Angora rabbit spinning
- Silk spinning tussah and mulberry from hankies and roving
- Mohair and Cashmere spinning
- Spinning synthetics, ramie, and other man-made fibers
- Spinning novelty yarns
- Spinning for warp
- Spinning for weft
- Spinning wool embroidery floss
- Spinning cotton and silk embroidery floss
- Spinning fine threads on a charkha
- Dyeing with natural dyes
- Japanese Silk reeling
- Care and feeding of a spinning wheel
- Spinning instruction and teaching techniques
- How to select, skirt, wash, and prepare a raw fleece for spinning
- Carding wool, course and fines
- Combing using English wool combs
- Combing using Viking wool combs

Projects Completed during Apprenticeship:

- Raised my own angora rabbits and took them to educational fiber arts demos where I demonstrated plucking and spinning straight from the rabbit. I later had a herd of rabbits for fiber from 2008-2010 and showed them in Rabbit Shows across north-central Ohio.
- Participated in sheep shearing demonstrations and participated in Sheep-to-Shawl competitions
- Project during Apprenticeship: Hand-sewed a traditional women's 16th Century Hirka and embroidered it using hand-spun and hand-dyed embroidery floss using only period techniques, and a design taken from primary documentation and examination of extant pieces under Jo Ann's mentorship. During this time, I had the opportunity to travel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and gained permission to examine some of their private collection first hand.

Skills

- Knitting - Straight needles, Circular needles, Lace techniques
- Crochet - many techniques, including Amigurumi and lace
- Weaving - Inkle loom, Tapestry, Pin Loom, Backstrap and primitive techniques, Card Weaving
- Embroidery - English Embroidery, Japanese Shashiko and Boro work
- Crossstitch
- Needlepoint
- Shibori Dyeing
- Needle Felting, both pictorial and dimensional
- Traditional Indigo dye vat using nothing modern (including extracting ammonia from urine)
- Viking Fiber Arts techniques - combing and spinning to weaving on a warp-weighted loom based on archeology found on ship burials and extant pieces.
- Spinning silk copper and silver threads plied threads for lampas work.
- Built my own Charkha from a bicycle wheel
- Restored a great wheel with a Miner's head and several traditional spinning wheels