

THREADS OF THE EARTH



North Coast textile artists featured in Cannon Beach exhibit

BY MALLORY GRUBEN

Sunset-inspired weavings and abstract patchwork fabric murals will fill the Cannon Beach Gallery this month. It's part of a textile show from the Cannon Beach Arts Association, on view now through Sept. 26, that brings six Oregon artists together to showcase vibrant and varied works. Two of the artists are residents of the North Coast, and shared the process and meaning of their creations.

ALLYN CANTOR

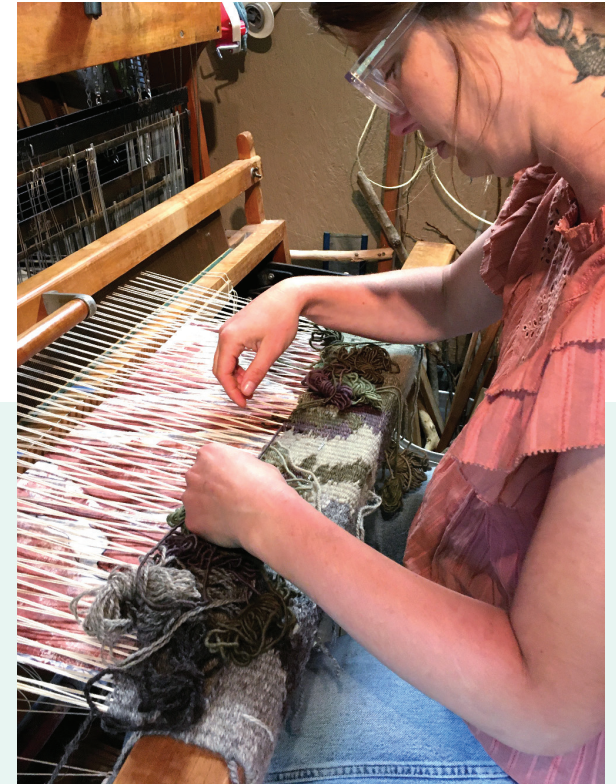
Abstract fabric assemblage

Cannon Beach artist Allyn Cantor works with threads and scrap cloth to create mixed media compositions.

KYLA SJOGREN

Woven plant fibers

Wheeler textile artist Kyla Sjogren weaves plant fibers, pigments and natural elements by hand.



Allyn Cantor's long career in textile art originated in high school, when she handmade some of her own clothes. As a long-time painter, Cantor focused her attention on textiles in college because she found it to be "broader" than painting.

"I had been making a lot of handmade clothing on my own since high school, but I had been painting since high school too," said Cantor. "But I didn't want to major in painting. There just seemed like a lot more to explore in the textiles department."

Cantor, 45, lives in Cannon Beach and calls her unique style "fabric assemblage." Most of her pieces are abstract designs made of a patchwork of fabrics and canvas. She admits she has a giant collection of fabric.

"I save every bit of scrap, because they become the gestures from the line and scissor marks," she said.

She received a grant from the Cannon Beach Arts Association in 2005 to develop her body of work, and she's been showing in the local gallery since.

Cantor sews together repurposed fabric with pieces of painter's canvas and stretches them like a traditional painting would be stretched. Then she adds embellishments, such as embroi-

dery or screen printed images. She likened some of her designs to the layered topography maps of mountain ranges.

"It can take months for a big one, but the smaller ones go pretty fast," she said. "A lot of it is pinning it together and sticking it on the wall, then living with it for a

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'Winter Light,' by Allyn Cantor, is characterized by juxtaposing layers of surface texture and fluidity of linear motion created by loose threads.

Where to see the art

Cannon Beach Gallery
1064 S. Hemlock Street

On view now through Sept. 26 with with an artist reception during the Earth & Ocean Arts Festival on Sept. 18.

Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At 18, Kyla Sjogren faced a choice. She could attend college for environmental science, or pursue a degree in fine art.

She chose the latter, and her passion for natural dyes and weaving blossomed. However, decades later she's found her decision still allowed her to indulge in her more scientific interests.

"The natural dye

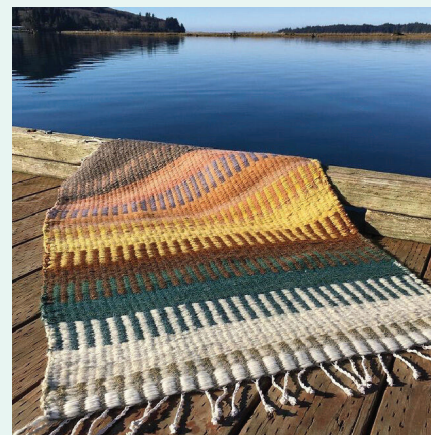
aspect uses botany and chemistry and learning how to figure out how to apply those pigments onto fibers," said Sjogren.

The 46-year-old creates each of her pieces from her home in Wheeler while pulling from her environmental science knowledge. She carefully considers how her work might affect the surrounding ecosystem by asking questions about how using a certain plant for pigment might lead to overharvesting, or how to keep carbon emissions low by sourcing wool from local farmers instead of trucking it in from out of state.

"I don't want to cause any harm, selfishly, because I feel like you can work in tandem with the ecosystem you're in and not really cause too much of a disturbance," she said.

In that way, textile art is more than just the end product for Sjogren. She views the process of sourcing materials, researching natural dye ingredients, choosing to apply materials in a certain order and documenting her discoveries as significant parts of her art making.

Her artwork has taught her how St. John's Wort produces a "great red-brown color," for dyeing yarns and how nettle



Kyla Sjogren created all of the colors in this rug from plant or insect pigments.

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