



Artist Musings ~ Fiber Fusings

A Newsletter About All Things Fiber for All Fiber Lovers

Volume One

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Table of Contents

- 1) Greeting
What's Happening in My Studio
- 2) Meet the Artist ~ Susan Purney Mark
- 4) Recipe ~ Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins
- 5) Details for "In the Bag Club"
- 6) September Project ~ 3 Ring binder Bag
- 7) October Bag ~ Cell Phone Pouch
- 8) Class ~ Wacky Paper Dolls
Margit Olson ~ A Journey through Art and Alzheimer's ~ how to watch
- 8) Upcoming events
Global Quilt Connection
Women Who Run With Scissors Exhibit
Tomte News and Order Form
- 9) Mini Notebook Variation



What on earth does Grandpa Sven have on his head? The book is coming along! See page 9

Greetings!

And just like that, it's autumn. Pumpkin spice time if you are a fan. I am hit and miss on the pumpkin spice but I do love the colors and smells of the season.

Our first time garden was a fun activity. I have a lot of ideas for next year and look forward for it to be even better. One batch of pesto left to make and then we have processed all of our harvest. We were able to stick to our challenge to eat something from our garden every day since things were ready to pick. Some days it meant parsley or mint, but we kept the challenge.

Remember that this newsletter is meant to share ideas so if you have anything you would like to share, please let me know.

What's Happening in My Studio

It's been a busy few months. I've learned more about technology than I ever thought possible. New equipment and several days in producing videos on quilting techniques. Fun but exasperating. I have been doing some experimenting so I will be offering some fun projects after the first of the year.

For the most part, my days are filled with illustrating! Sven is becoming a good friend.

Birgit

Meet the Artist ~ Susan Purney Mark



During the past six months as we have been isolating and experiencing drastic changes to our lives, I've been reflecting on a month I spent in Iceland last year. It was a time of unique growth and challenges both artistically and personally where I focused most of my time and energy on exploring an art and theme that was still in an infancy stage in my work. Carving out time that is dedicated to only those very first steps can be a challenge when other demands are laid on us by ourselves and others. The gift of time apart or away such as a residency can provide gives separation between the everyday and a focus on ones art.

I discovered the Icelandic Textile Centre - *Textílsetur Íslands* while "following" another artist on Instagram and I was intrigued by her photos of Iceland and the work she was creating. Messages between us culminated in my application to the centre for a one month term in 2019. I was accepted for April and traveled to Blöndúós, located 4 hours north east of Reykjavik during a

fearsome snowstorm! Blöndúós is a small town of about 1,000 people with small industries, some fishing and support for regional farms. The Textile Centre is part of the former Women's college, *Kvennaskólinn* which also houses a distance learning centre, an extensive textile museum, textile research facilities and some community support systems.

The Textile Residency offers accommodation, kitchen and washing facilities plus very generous light filled working spaces. There are looms and associated equipment for those interested in weaving and spinning plus an advanced digital loom for those with prior permission. There is also a separate dye studio and a connected gallery space. Residents are free to work on their own practice and there are no demands placed on completing or donating any of their work.



Residents can apply for one- or two-month periods so when I arrived a couple residents were beginning their second month and other residents stayed on after I left. Altogether there were ten residents from Canada, the US, Australia, Latvia, Germany and the UK.

While textiles were the common focus our interests varied between weaving, felting, embroidery, surface design and knitting - wide yet connected skillsets.



Shortly after my arrival, we were invited to present a summary of our backgrounds and plans for our residency, it was a worthwhile time in getting to know one another. Other group activities during the month were a visit to the local "wool washery" which give us an insight into the history and current production of wool in Iceland as well as a day trip to a nearby fish



tannery. This was a unique opportunity to see the way skins, both fish and mammal, are tanned and dyed, mostly for the fashion industry in Europe.

The topic of my residency was "A Textile Narrative", an exploration of mark making within a book making format.



With dyed fabric, paper and threads I used my time to look at how to shape and develop cloth and paper into scrolls, and other shapes that could resemble book forms. My work incorporates my own created text, sometime resembling words or letter

forms that are made with ink, paint and stitch. A few years ago, I took a workshop with Dorothy Caldwell where I was introduced to using body movement to create marks onto a surface with a variety of media. This was a breakaway time for me to learn how more intuitive and freer flowing I could be in my artwork and I continue to explore these concepts and work on developing them further.



During my time at the Textile Centre I made prototype forms, experimenting with combining cloth and paper through laminating with mediums and stitch, exploring bindings with strings, nails, branches and found objects. Loose and flowing movements with paint on top of some pieces also added unexpected opportunities. I had purposely planned a limited palette with black and white, plus greys and related neutrals, partly due to luggage limitations in travel and also because I wanted simplicity in my choices of contrast and value without confusion that too much variety of colour might bring.



Little house Under the Rocks

Part of exploration is being unsuccessful and learning what material and construction processes are not good choices - this is vital to moving forward in making art. Sometimes my processes were two steps forward and one step back, other times it was two steps forward and a right turn....with each step there are decisions and choices to make - a residency is a great opportunity to be free to make mistakes and move on.

Being able to have lengthy periods of time to devote to

Just a bit about me . I live on a small island off the west coast of Canada, its about 27 sq. miles and has a year-round population of about 2500 people. We have amazing artists, scenery that's incredible and a mild Mediterranean-style climate. I have a very small studio and am currently looking for larger space to rent as some of my current series (different from my Iceland work) is large and demands big tables and room to stretch out! I also love to knit, study art (right now its mostly online courses) and walk . a lot! When the situation permits I'd be heading to Spain to walk my third Camino . and that's another story!

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Susan has graciously offered readers of this newsletter 20% off all items in her Etsy shop over \$20.00. Here is the link to her shop.

Use the code: NEWS20

The coupon is good until October 14, 2020

(lots of beautiful ice dyed fabric!)

<https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/FabricImagery?coupon=NEWS20>

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins



I am not a huge fan of cinnamon but in this fall favorite, it rocks! Plus there is chocolate so.....

This is a recipe from the bakery in Escanaba that Jim and his parents had. Maybe this muffin recipe was one of the reasons I fell in love with him. Hope you enjoy it.

Wet Ingredients

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup canola oil
1 15 oz can pumpkin

Dry Ingredients

2 3/4 cups flour
1 TBSP baking soda
1 TBSP baking powder
3/4 t salt
1 1/2 t cinnamon

Add

2 cups mini
chocolate
chips

Directions

Mix wet ingredients and dry ingredients in separate bowls. Add together and mix until just moist. Spoon into prepared muffin tins. Bake for 25 minutes if you are making large muffins or 19 minutes if you are making medium muffins.

This make a large batch but they freeze well. I suggest that you share with your friends to spread a little fall cheer.

Upcoming Classes and Clubs

“In the Bag” ~ [Still time to sign up!](#)

Our first meeting will be an information gathering meeting. We won't be working on the 3 Ring Binder Bag during this first meeting. When we get together via zoom, we will set a time to get together to make the first bag (kind of a mini zoom retreat).

We meet regularly on zoom ~ Third Monday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

This club features bags and things you put in bags to make them more functional. Each month offers a new technique and pattern. There are a two ways to join.

1) Basic Membership ~ **\$35.00** per year.

You will receive one pattern each month (except December) and will be able to participate in a virtual Zoom meeting to see demos and get to know other members of the club.

Your membership lasts for one year from when you begin the club. 20% discount on kit of the month.

2) Membership Plus ~ **\$50.00** per year.

You will receive all of benefits of basic membership plus access to demos on demand so you can refer to demos when you are working on your project.

***Membership lasts for one year from when you begin the club.
20 % discount on kits of the month***

Upcoming bags will include:

* **September ~ 3 Ring Binder Bag** (see page 6)

* **October ~ Cell Phone Pouch** (see page 7)

A little bag that you can wear on your belt or with an over the shoulder strap. It's got a few pockets and a hidden compartment for some spending money.

* **November ~ Shopping Tote**

just in time for Holiday shopping (well maybe not this year). This tote has a nice size compartment for regular carrying, then it has a BIG compartment when the shopping gets serious. If shopping isn't in your future, you can use this great bag for a fabulous overnight bag.

September Project ~ 3 Ring Binder Bag

Our “In the Bag Club” uses Robert Kauffman’s luscious Gustaf Klimt fabrics. The first project of “In the Bag” is this redesigned **3 Ring Binder Bag** (look for club details on page 5). This bag features a pocket on the outside for your phone, an over the shoulder strap, pockets inside for business cards and pencils, and a zipper pouch large enough for most iPods. Flaps on the back of the binder fold over to protect the papers in your binder.



Kit includes everything you need except your binder and the thread! (Fabric, batting, zipper, Velcro, and interfacing.) For use with binders measuring 10" x 11 ½" and 1" to 2" thick.

Prices:

Pattern ~ free for members (pdf download) [JOIN NOW](#)
\$8.00 for non-members (pdf download) [BUY NOW](#)

Kit ~ \$35.00 (includes pdf pattern download) + \$5.00 s&h
Member price ~ 25.00 (includes pdf pattern download)
+ \$5.00 s&h [BUY the KIT NOW](#)

Colorways: Neutral, Blue, or Red (see photos above)

(number of kits is limited ~ reserve early! Kits will ship September 14.)

A special thanks to Lindi Kuritz and Tracy Reeb for testing the pattern. If you would like to be a pattern tester in the future, contact me.

October Bag ~ Cell Phone Pouch

This cell phone pouch measures 6" wide by 8" tall. I wanted a bag that I could put on my belt and carry my phone with me. The front of this bag has a pocket that can hold credit cards/driver's license. The second pocket holds a cell phone. Behind the cell phone pocket is a zippered pocket that you can store your valuables when you are out and about.

Flip the bag over and you will see a mesh pocket to hold your bottled water or a favorite drink. The mesh has elastic to help hold your bottle/can snug. There are loops at the top to use if you want to use with a belt.

The strap is long enough to use over the body or you can double up the strap to carry like a purse.



Pattern

Free for members
(PDF download)

[Join the Club Now](#)

\$8.00 for non-members
(PDF download)

Kit Price

\$20.00

(includes PDF pattern-
download plus \$5.00 s&h)

Member price ~ \$10.00
Includes PDF pattern
download plus \$5.00 s&h



Colorways:

Red/black (sample) Blue/Silver Grey
Neutrals/black Purple/silver Green/Gold
All fabrics from Robert Kaufman "Gustaf Klimt" line

Kits will ship or be delivered ~ and pattern will be released on October 12



Upcoming Class ~ Wacky Paper Dolls

Part 1 ~ Nov. 9 (1 & 7 cst zoom)

Part 2 ~ Nov. 23 (1 & 7 cst zoom)

Meet Topsy the Toe Dancer.
She is the prototype for an
upcoming class.

You will receive a kit that includes:

- ◆ patterns for all sorts of body shapes, and interesting clothing
- ◆ Printed facial features
- ◆ a pressing sheet
- ◆ Parchment paper
- ◆ Misty fuse
- ◆ 2 Micron Pens



You don't need to be able to draw to end up with a crazy paper doll. Above are just a **few** of the choices you have for eyes and lips! Plus, you will learn a few tricks to make great backgrounds and patterned fabric. Supply list will be sent when you sign up.

Cost: \$40.00 (+\$5.00 s&h)

If you live in the area, I will deliver it to you.

[Sign up now - Limited space](#)

Just in time for some fun holiday gifts.



A Journey through the Art & Alzheimer's Of Margit Olson

For the August meeting of Evergreen Quilters Guild, I did a presentation about Margit, my sister, and how her artwork changed as she struggled with Alzheimer's. Her artwork was affected by the medications that she was given. Through it all, she loved her time making art. We are working at getting a link to the presentation available on my website. If you are an Evergreen member, you are able to view it through the Evergreen website. To view the presentation, go to: Evergreen Quilt Guild website. Look for and pull down the calendar tab then look under the upcoming events toward the bottom of the page. There is a link that says it is a presentation given by me. [Order your set of cards today.](#)



exploration and development can build a foundation for a body of work, a theme or a series. The month I spent on my "Textile Narrative" in Iceland gave me the time to study and create with the book form and make that my foundation for future development into a body of work.

Is your guild looking for ways to keep your membership connected and engaged while adhering to social distancing guidelines? Our virtual meet the teachers events are an opportunity for your guild program chairs to meet teachers from all over the globe who are offering live virtual online workshops and lecture programs.

All of the teachers that are presenting 3 minute quips are all available to lecture or teach on line—virtual.

Next presentations are September 30th or October 7th. Meeting starts at 3:00 cst. If you are interested in attending or learning more about **Global Quilt Connection**, please go to the website: globalquiltconnection.com

WWRWS

Women Who Run with Scissors

Women Who Run With Scissors have a fall exhibit at the Kress Pavillion in Egg Harbor through the end of the year. Two collections will be on display "Exotic Pollinators" and "Old Mail Revisited."

BIG NEWS! I have signed a contract for my first Tomte book. If all goes well and "the basement don't flood," it should be out by Thanksgiving. It should be around \$11.00, soft cover, perfect bound. We are truly excited and anxious to share this charming little story.

If you would like to preorder, please let me know. I will have to put in an initial order and would like to make sure that I have enough for friends and family.

Ordering Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Number ordered: _____

I will be glad to deliver in the Green Bay area and I will be in Escanaba early December for delivery.

Mini Notebook and Business Card Holder ~ Variation 3

Here are a few more ideas for these little notebook covers. In this cover, I seamed two pieces of Halloween fabric together on the diagonal. Then I added two different fabric pockets. On the pocket on the right side, I added some orange ric rac. Then I added a little cat charm. For the back, I made a little candy pouch by cutting a piece of mesh to 4 x 5 1/2". I sewed a binding on top of the mesh out of my orange Halloween fabric. The mesh was placed on top of the back before the lining pieces are attached.

I have black and white mesh if you are interested. It is \$15.00 per yard but I can cut any size and charge accordingly. A piece 4" x 5 1/2" would cost about 25¢.



These little Notebooks are wonderful for party favors. If it's something that you would like and don't have the time, let me know. I charge \$8.00 per notebook (with notebook included) and \$10.00 for custom designed covers with embroidery or beading (for Bridal or Baby Showers, etc.)

Til next time, keep creating

Love, Birgit

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