

Poudre Studio Artists' 'Fiber Art' show displays works by 36 artists

By Rhema Zlaten Special to the Reporter-Herald

Posted: 04/04/2013 08:43:33 PM MDT

ReporterHerald.com

When times were a little tough financially for their family, Wellington-based painter Sandra Hopkins began experimenting with other mediums to express her creativity. She picked up sewing, and when she couldn't part with the remaining scraps, she took those pieces and began arranging fabric mosaics, or painting with fabric as she calls her new art form. This type of work shifted her artistic perception to a new level.

"Through this period of seven to eight years of this progression of painting to fiber art, I really came to believe that things are not wasted," Hopkins said.

"I was coming to realize how many people in our society we waste and how much stuff we waste. There are whole villages in China built on garbage. I decided I didn't want to participate in that cycle," she said. "My faith became a big part of that too. God doesn't waste. He values the things we create and who we are. He makes our lives into new things. He is in the process of restoring all. That became my artwork and got me to where I am now."

GO & DO

"Fiber Art"

When: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 4-27.

Where: Poudre Studio Artists and Galleries, 406 N. College Ave., Fort Collins.

Admission: Free.

Info: Visit pourestudioartists.com.



Mickey Bookstaber's globalization dolls make an appearance in the Fiber Art show at Poudre Studio Artists and Galleries.

Hopkins has a few pieces featured in "Fiber Art," the second annual show at the Poudre Studio Artists & Galleries running April 4-27. One piece, called "Looking South," is about intentionally sitting in the places we find ourselves and finding surprise in what we find in ourselves. Her second piece explores onions from the viewpoint of really looking at the shapes and lines of a vegetable most people consider perfectly spherical and white.

"I see my art now as a witness of that as we go through life, the places we are in and the landscape around us bring encounters for us where if we truly see and take things in and we open ourselves to new things and new spaces," Hopkins said. "I see my artwork as a way to find these new spaces of restoration and healing that are happening around us."

Megan Tilley is a Fort Collins-based fiber artist and gallery curator for the Poudre Studio Artists organization. She helped launch the "Fiber Art" show a few years ago to highlight an art form not normally showcased.

"It is a show to highlight all works of fiber art, anywhere from quilts to entries that are weavings to really anything that has to do with using fibers," Tilley said. "There are not a lot of fiber art shows around, which we weren't aware of until we put it together and the fiber art community got excited and responded."

This year, 36 artists responded to the call for art, submitting 95 pieces. The show will feature wearable clothing on forms, works displayed on the ceilings and walls, as well as free-standing fiber works on pedestals. Tilley also has a few works submitted. One is "Sins and Transgressions Transformed," a piece with copper wiring and fiber root tendrils. Her second pieces, "The Water Flows Over Me," simulates a waterfall.

Long-time art teacher now professional artist Mickey Bookstaber of Fort Collins submitted a permutation of a 15-year-old fiber project she continually re-purposes to express new ideas. She made 1,000 white muslin and cotton dolls, called globalization dolls. When she initially made the dolls, they were an expression of how American dominance in the world makes everyone in the world want to appear like American culture.

"At the time I was involved in studying Guatemalan textiles," Bookstaber said. "Many of their traditional clothing was being replaced by blue jeans, etc. Many aspects of our culture were seeping into their indigenous culture."

To represent this trend, Bookstaber made all of the dolls the same, except each doll has a different bead or button to represent that everyone still wants to be an individual among seas of conformity. For the "Fiber Art" show, the dolls will make an appearance stacked by rows in a fiber box.

"It is called globalization dolls cubed," Bookstaber said. "I have a humorous attitude about these dolls after spending years sewing them and using them, and I look forward to many more years of exploring them and exhibiting them."