

## London Guild WSD - Tapestry Interest Group

Meeting 2 - Saturday 10 December 2016

For our second meeting everyone was asked to bring with them:

- News - any news of worships, exhibitions, own weaving, etc.
- Tapestry Topic - the results of their experiments with slits and texture inspired by Sue Lawty's book 'rock-raphia-linen-lead'.
- What's Next - Ideas on what the group could do going forward.

### News

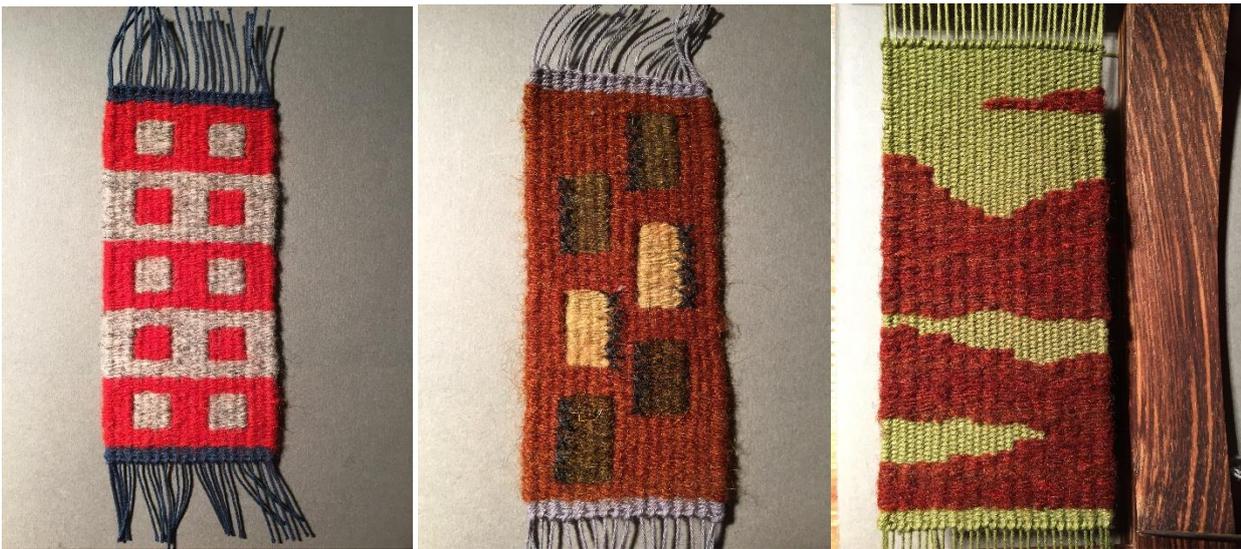
- Several members had been up to Sleaford for the Here & Now exhibition at the National Centre for Craft and Design (NCCD). Catherine was lucky enough to get up for the private view and so heard the talks given by many of the exhibiting weavers which she found both fascinating and a privilege. I had been up a bit later in early December and so was able to combine it with seeing the smaller exhibition 'Soft Engineering: Textiles Taking Shape' which showed the works of Alison Ellen, Ann Richards and Deirdre Wood side-by-side. Both exhibitions were incredible and well worth going to. They both have excellent exhibition catalogues you can purchase.
- Catherine had attended the first Tapestry Weaving Masterclass organised by Weaversbazaar and held at Jane Brunning's Studio. This first masterclass was led by Fiona Hutchinson and as you would expect, was an exploration in texture with an emphasis on warp wrapping in constantly changing warp groupings. Catherine was able to experiment with nettle, wool and cotton, and once finished and cut off the frame was encouraged to randomly push wefts up the warps and see what happens! And off course there are lots of slits!!



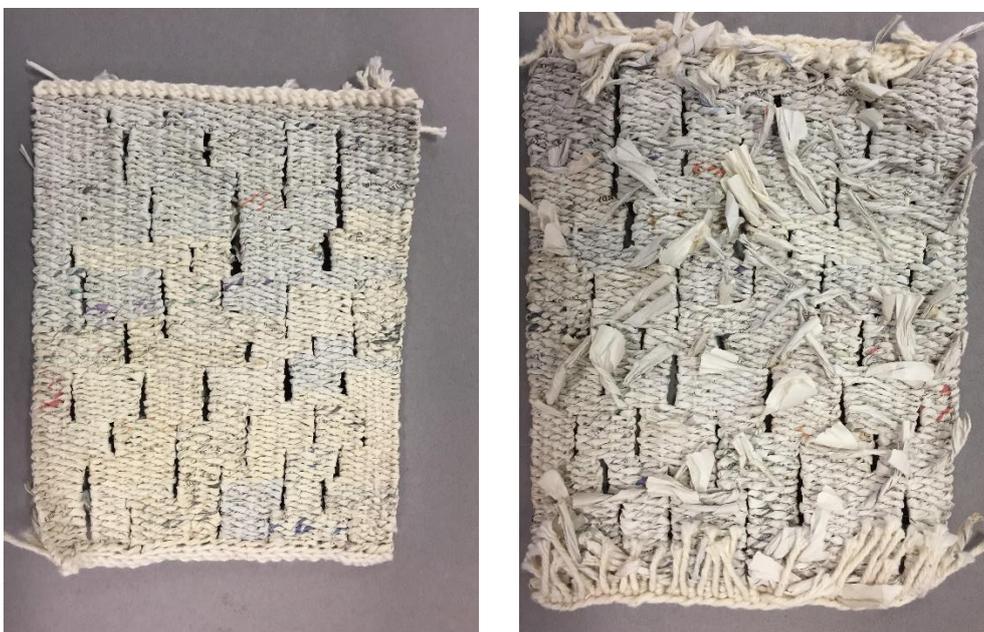
Weaversbazaar have announced their second Masterclass to be held in April and lead by Joan Baxter.

## Tapestry Topic

- As a reminder:  
The tapestry pieces in Sue Lawty's collection use wonderful subtle colour palettes in a mixture of yarns. They are woven using textural weave techniques with a heavy emphasis on slits. As we all greatly admired this work we had decided we would set ourselves the task of creating our own interpretation(s). We decided there would be no set parameters, so we could use whatever materials we liked, at whatever scale we liked. The idea was to explore and have some fun doing it.
- It was immediately clear everyone round the table loved Sue Lawty's work. While most sampling focussed on her use of slits, there was some exploring her use of flat weaves over various warp combinations, and soumak to produce texture and depth.
- Karen had played with both slits and texture using wool and cotton warp on a tiny Hockett Loom



- Aruna's piece of slit work using paper yarn made from newspaper had us all fascinated.



This was made from pages of the Metro and Evening Standard newspapers; hand spun and then woven on a frame warped at 8epi. We all so desperately wanted to have a go that Aruna has kindly agreed to conduct a mini workshop on it at our next meeting – details below.

### What's Next

- We all felt we had barely scratched the surface in exploring slits so decided we would continue with this as our topic for the next 3 months. However this time we thought we would use slits to create patterns. One of the tapestry books we looked at was Kathe Todd-Hooker's 'Line in Tapestry'. Pages 29-33 explores slit techniques and background patterns. This inspired us to want to play. Just in case you do not have this book I have scanned the relevant pages and attached them to this email. Again – we have set no limitations on scale or material – the more the better for us all to learn from.
- As mentioned above – Aruna will be taking us through how she created her newspaper slit tapestry at our meeting in March 2017. If you would like to take part you will need to bring the following with you:
  - A small loom warped at 8epi (3-3.5epc), 10 to 15cms wide.
  - Spindle if you have one, otherwise there will be spares.
  - Tapestry tools
  - Newspaper torn in strips in preparation for spinning approx. 1.5cm wide:
    - Metro and Evening Standard – long horizontal edge strips
    - Financial Times – vertical strips

It totally depends upon the look you want to achieve. If you want it plain (like Aruna's) then just use the plain edges of each page. If you want a random black type effect then you can use the whole page for strips. If you want dashes of colour then make sure you tear strips across the images or incorporate colour images from other publications. Don't forget these strips will be twisted so the final effect will probably be a surprise!!

Of course you can get really creative and paint / dip-dye the pages before tearing up.

You do need to tear the strips rather than cut them for a more textural result and to help the strips bind to each other when twisting together.

I'm really looking forward to it.

Any questions, drop me an email – have fun weaving

Karen