

# Textile Arts Council

The Bay Area Forum for artists, aficionados & collectors of weaving, rugs & tapestries, baskets, costume & wearable art

January 2008

Volume XXIII, Number 1

## Upcoming Programs and Announcements

All programs are held in the **Koret Auditorium** at the **de Young Museum** in Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Drive, San Francisco. Admission to the programs is **FREE** to TAC members, \$10 for non-members, and \$5 for FAMSF members and students with I.D. No additional Museum admission fee is necessary. You may enter from the lower garage level or from the main floor near the entrance.

Saturday, January 12, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

### TRAPPINGS AND TENTS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CENTRAL ASIAN TURKMEN WEAVINGS

With **S. Peter Poullada**

In this presentation, S. Peter Poullada, noted scholar and president of the San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society, will present an analysis of Turkmen weavings using a contextual approach

focused on trying to understand the cultural, social, and historical milieu of Central Asian weaving. Poullada combines ethnohistorical research into original sources and analysis of aesthetic traditions and structural

variables to provide a framework through which we can understand the work of Turkmen weavers—including the women weavers. He will link the weavings within a continuum that extends from the tent, the inner world of the Turkmen family, to the wider world of the clan encampment and further, to the outer world of the tribe and village and their interactions with the bazaars and marketplaces of Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran.

Poullada will look at the implications for Turkmen weavings of the variety and complexity

of the tribal mosaic of the region and the impact of Turkmen social structure and customs. He will also explore the possible existence of separate aesthetic traditions depending on the function of the weavings. Additionally, Poullada will take up the question of the influence of Islam and local religious customs on Turkmen weaving culture.

Saturday, February 9, 2008, 10 a.m.

### ENFOLDING HISTORY AND FLUX: SUMBA TEXTILES THROUGH PRESENT TIMES

With **Jill Forshee**

Sumba, Indonesia's elaborate ikat and supplementary warp (pahikung) textiles are among the most dynamic and pictorial in the world. Historically worn by people of the noble caste, these vibrant fabrics persist in quality and cultural importance for the people who create and wear them. Integral to Sumba's tenacious cultural system, they are worn at all ritual events and enfold the dead for passage to the next world. Sumbanese textiles have changed significantly through interaction with global markets, especially over the past four decades as tourism in Indonesia has grown. Today, textiles in Sumba combine ancient ancestral symbols with contemporary images from around the world. Their designers pick and choose from modern global culture while maintaining important traditional design principles, weaving methods, natural dye techniques, and indigenous iconography. Jill will bring a number of textiles from her personal collection for the audience to see, touch, and even try on.

Jill Forshee holds a PhD in cultural anthropology from U.C. Berkeley. A Fulbright Scholar, she has



*Migrating Yomut family, northeast Iran. Original photo by William Irons.*

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

de Young Legion of Honor

## From the Chair

January 2008

Happy New Year!

The last year was so full of great programs and events, it is hard to imagine doing any better, but that is just what the Textile Arts Council has in store for you this year. Your board has formed very active committees and I thought you might like to know what they are busy doing.

The new **education outreach committee** will be working on ways to augment the museum's educational programs. The FAMSF already has a program for visiting schoolchildren, but no textiles are included because they cannot be on permanent display. So, this committee is thinking up ways to include textiles and to inspire kids to learn more about them. The committee is also reaching out to the many college-level textile programs in the Bay Area. Any members who want to help with this effort are welcome.

**Film Festival anyone?** Past chair Gretchen Turner has transferred hundreds of textile films onto DVDs, a format that can be shown in the FAM auditoriums and beyond. Her efforts are truly a labor of love, and a great resource. Do you know of a group that would welcome a showing?

Our amazing **programming committee** has more erudite speakers lined up a year ahead for our fabulous monthly lectures. Come and hear them and bring a friend. The **Ethnic Textile Study Group (ETSG)** meets monthly and shows wonderful textiles collected by group members.

The **communications committee** has always produced three newsletters a year, which are now available electronically! (go green, save paper and postage!) They have also created and maintained the TAC website. Now they are working on other ways to make TAC more visible. We believe that there are many "would be" TAC members out there who just don't know about us yet. To that end, we created the card with our lecture schedule, and now board member Hansine Goran has created a stunning brochure explaining who we are and what we do. We are so committed to this visibility idea that several board members have contributed the money to print this gorgeous brochure so that we won't have to use any TAC operating funds to try out this method of spreading the word.

Also, with visibility in mind—and to make things

more fun—the **hospitality committee** has been busy welcoming members and newcomers to TAC events, organizing the annual Sinton reception, and prepping for the truly fabulous annual holiday party. There are many volunteers helping at these events. Come join the fun.

Over the last 20 years, TAC has amassed an endowment fund strictly for purchasing pieces for the textile department. The **acquisitions committee** assists the curatorial staff in the purchase of pieces that will enhance the museum collection.

The **board development committee** has spent months assessing the skill sets needed on the TAC board, interviewing prospective board members, and presenting applicants to the whole board for consideration and a board vote. Those candidates are then presented for membership vote. Your board has 20 positions and three or four need to be filled each year.

This year we will be developing a **travel committee** to plan textile trips. Members are welcome to join this committee! Contact the office if you are interested.

Past chair **Peggy Gordon** has led many successful tours of local textile artists' studios, and she will continue this year. They are wonderful and not to be missed. Watch for email announcements.

This year the **fund raising committee** will really gear up with the **special events committee** to create some memorable and seriously fun events that also add to TAC funds. This past year we have begun a special fund to offer speakers better pay. We also need to address TAC's basic operating budget.

The TAC membership dues do not cover all our operating needs, which include speakers' fees; audio visual fees; newsletter, flyer, and postcard printing and postage; and paying our most efficient and faithful office manager for her two days a week with us. Several generous TAC members give annual donations toward these expenses, which are greatly appreciated. However, it is our goal to make TAC's basic operations self-sufficient.

Watch for email blasts to keep you up to date on all the great events. This is your organization, so get involved! And let's make it grow.

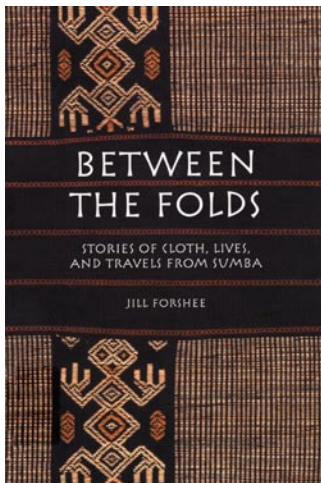
See you soon!

Laurel Sprigg

Chair, Textile Arts Council

## Programs continued from page 1

been carrying out research in Indonesia on and off for 18 years. She is the author of *Between the Folds: Stories of Cloth, Lives and Travels from Sumba* (2001) and *Cultures and Customs of Indonesia* (2006). She has also written numerous articles and book chapters on Indonesian arts and cultures. Jill is currently writing a novel about eastern Indonesia and will be returning to the region in the near future for an extended stay. Please join us for this insightful look at one of the vibrant cultures of Indonesia.



**Saturday, March 22, 2008, 10:00 a.m.**

### **DESIGN AND PATTERN IN THE TEXTILE ARTS OF CENTRAL ASIA**

**With Carol Bier**

With their bright colors and intricate designs, the textile arts of Central Asia have fascinated collectors, artists, and others in the West for well over a century. Whether large, floor-covering carpets woven in geometric patterns or robes and household furnishings decorated with tiny repeats of stylized floral designs, these textiles represent many hours of labor undertaken in order to bring beauty to daily life. Textiles from both urban developments and nomadic encampments often give evidence of a thorough understanding of fibers, filaments, and dyestuffs, and familiarity with many different technologies. This lecture will explore in detail just what makes these textiles so intriguingly beautiful.

Carol Bier is president of the Textile Society of America and a research associate of the Textile Museum in

Washington, DC, where she served as curator for Eastern Hemisphere Collections from 1984 to 2001. Author of numerous publications connecting textiles and mathematics, her current research focuses on patterns in Islamic art, exploring geometry and meaning. From 1995 to 2006 Bier taught "Pattern in Islamic Art" at the Maryland Institute College of Art and courses on Islamic arts and cultures for the master of liberal arts program at Johns Hopkins University. Since moving to the Bay Area last year, Bier has taught "Islamic Ornament: Forms and Meanings" at Mills College, "Islamic Art" at the College of Marin, and "Sufism, Spirituality, and Science" and "Islamic Mysticism" in the humanities and philosophy departments at San Francisco State University. Please join us for what promises to be an extremely interesting look at the beautiful textile arts of Central Asia.

*Camel trapping for a bridal procession (kejebellik)  
Central Asia, Turkmen people, 19th century  
Wool or goat hair; knotted pile (assymetrical knot,  
open to the left)  
Gift of Caroline McCoy-Jones  
2002.122.10*



FIRST ANNUAL LECTURE IN HONOR OF CAROLINE AND H. MCCOY JONES

### **"Revisiting the Turkmen: What Have We Learned Since 1980?"**

**Wednesday, February 6, 6:30 p.m.**

Dr. Jon Thompson, until recently May Beattie Fellow in Carpet Studies at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, is co-author of the ground-

**De Young: Koret Auditorium**

breaking 1980 book, *Turkmen: Tribal Carpets and Traditions*. In this lecture he examines some of the many questions still unanswered since that time and

**Admission: \$12.00**

airs a few new ideas. This event is co-sponsored by TAC, the San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society, and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

## Artwear in the Galleries

For the second year in a row, top San Francisco galleries remained open on a Sunday in November for an exclusive one-day holiday sale of Bay Area wearable art designers. *Artwear in the Galleries* is the brainchild of Marna Clark, who combined her jewelry design and events promotion skills to conceive and organize this event. Clark explains that the art gallery is ideal to showcase wearable art. “I think of art-to-wear as a contemporary art form. I wanted to present distinctive art-to-wear pieces as artwork in a gallery setting,” she said. “I believe there is a symbiotic relationship between the two and my goal was to bring the best of these worlds together.”

Twenty-four artists, both jewelry and clothing designers, participated in the event, including several artists represented in our own textile department collections. As former curator Melissa Leventon, who initially developed these collections for the Fine Arts Museums, explains, “The Bay Area was, and to some extent remains today, a Mecca for the fiber art and artwear artists. I felt it was important to represent some of the things that were going on in our own backyard. Exhibiting in *Artwear in the Galleries* were two of the founding members of the Art-to-Wear movement: Jean Cacicedo and Janet Lipkin. The fact that they are still working is a testament to the longevity of the field.”

Exhibiting alongside these Bay Area legends was the Jolika Fellow from Papua New Guinea, Cathy Kata. Curator Christina Hellmich and John and Marcia Friede developed the Jolika Fellowship, a cultural exchange program, to promote the art of Papua New Guinea by bringing scholars and working artists to the de Young. Cathy Kata works with the traditional medium of *bilum*, or string-

bag, making but has transformed it into a wearable art form. While *bilum* bags have been for centuries one of the most ubiquitous female art forms in Papua New Guinea, Kata has emerged as a true innovator—the first to use the *bilum* making technique to create clothing. Using both acrylic yarns and natural plant fibers, Kata creates vibrant works that combine an array of colors with wildly complex geometric patterns. Despite never hearing the term art-to-wear, Cathy Kata is truly a kindred spirit of our Bay Area artists.

For those who attended, there was the unique opportunity to both purchase one-of-a-kind wearable art pieces and take in exhibitions in the galleries. The

combination of clothing designers with jewelry designers and seasoned artists with emerging made for a lively event. As artist Carol Lee Shanks wrote, “the venue is perfectly suited to showcase creativity. I look forward to having my imagination run freely (while I create for next year’s event.)”

The Textile Department is immensely grateful to have been designated the beneficiary of the event. Thank you to all the artists for continuing to inspire us and to the Textile Arts Council for helping to make this event a success.

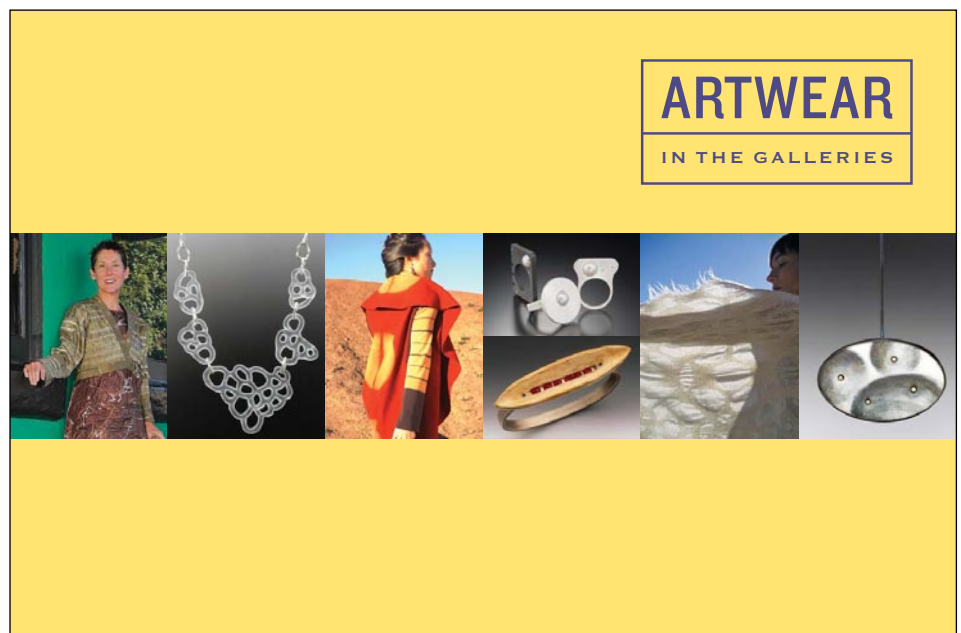
*Jill D’Alessandro*  
Associate Curator  
The Caroline and H. McCoy Jones  
Department of Textile Arts

## Galleries

Rena Bransten Gallery **Togonon Gallery** Patricia Sweetow Gallery  
**Stephen Wirtz Gallery** Art Exchange Gallery **Gregory Lind Gallery**

## Artists

Amber Marie Bently **Elisa Bongfeldt** Lydia Bransten **Jean Cacicedo**  
Mama Clark **Deborah Cross** Katrin Gaethke **Jenne Gilles** Ellen Hauptli  
**Ana Lisa Hedstrom** April Higashi **Cathy Kata** Janet Lipkin **Maja Karin**  
Moggridge **Ocelot/Angelina DeAntonis** Marilyn Petch **Liz Saintsing**  
Carol Lee Shanks **Nancy Shapiro** Eric Silva **Ruth Tamura** Julia Turner  
**Arlene Wohl**



## Ethnic Textiles Study Group

Want to learn more about ethnic textiles? Do you have a collection of ethnic textiles that you would like to share or know more about? The Ethnic Textiles Study Group meets once a month to allow members to share their enthusiasm about textiles from all over the world. Headed by TAC board members Serena Lee Harrigan and Mary Connors, the Ethnic Textiles Study Group is a great way to learn more about ethnic textiles from others and at the same time be motivated to study an aspect of them that has intrigued you for some time. At each gathering, a member of the group gives a presentation about a particular subject related to the overall study topic. Various aspects of ethnic textiles—cultural, technical, aesthetic—are explored. Each member is expected to contribute to the group at some time. Many times members bring pieces from their own collections to share. This is a great way to meet fellow TAC ethnic textile enthusiasts and a reason to read all those textile books on your shelves! For more information, contact Serena at [ohana1@pacbell.net](mailto:ohana1@pacbell.net) or 415 666-3636 or Mary Connors at [khamsing88@yahoo.com](mailto:khamsing88@yahoo.com) or 415 482-8035.

## Special event announcement

The Textile Arts Council is pleased to present a roundtable discussion, “Appreciating Textiles,” with Ni Wayan Murni. A legend in Bali—a successful female entrepreneur, who opened the first restaurant in Ibud—Murni is also a longtime collector of antique Indonesian textiles. Please join us for this rare opportunity to hear the insight and perspective of a Balinese woman on the role textiles play within their society with specific attention to how specific textiles are worn and used. Murni will share a variety of examples for a “hands on” experience with an emphasis on Balinese textiles. You will certainly enjoy Murni’s warm personality and contagious passion for all things Indonesian.

**Where:** At the home of Jan D’Alessandro, San Francisco

**When:** Sunday January 27, 2008, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Participation fee:** \$30

If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Trish Daly at either [TAC@famsf.org](mailto:TAC@famsf.org) or 415-750-3627. Space is limited to 20 participants. Coffee and refreshments will be served.



*Wedding party, Tenganan Pegeringsingan, Bali 1989  
Photo by Jill D’Alessandro*



## Special Programs

**Tuesday, February 5, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**De Young: Textile Study Room**

Dr. Jon Thompson will present two one-day programs on Central Asian carpets from the Fine Arts Museums’ renowned collection. He will lead a discussion on selected objects, with participants invited to join in and view the objects at close range. On day one, the focus will be on Turkmen carpets not currently on view in “For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen Weaving.” Day two will be devoted to the museums’ non-Turkmen Central Asian rugs. This is a chance to learn connoisseurship from one of the world’s leading experts on carpet studies and to see objects rarely on view.

Fee: \$250 per person. For information or to reserve a place, please leave a voicemail message at 415 750-7610 and your call will be returned. Space is very limited.

Watch the Museum website ([www.deyoungmuseum.org](http://www.deyoungmuseum.org) or [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)) for additional programs related to the exhibition.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February 18, 2008

Please send your copy to the TAC office at [tac@famsf.org](mailto:tac@famsf.org)

## Announcements

We congratulate Karen Hampton, TAC member and master member of the Baulines Craft Guild, who has been awarded a Eureka Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation. This prestigious award is given to the artist in recognition of her work. Ms. Hampton's latest work draws on family history and the narrative of relationship using embroidery and various printing techniques on cloth.

*The Kashmiri Shawl, from Jamavar to Paisley*, by Sherry Rehman and Naheed Jafri, has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the Textile Society of America's R.L. Shep award. The award is given each year to a publication judged to be the best book of the year in the field of ethnic textile studies.

Barbara Berk, TAC member and local designer, has had her distinctive hand-woven gold brooch accepted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Congratulations to another talented member of TAC.

The San Francisco Tribal group held its fourth annual event in the Herbst International Exhibition Hall in the San Francisco Presidio, October 12th to 14th, 2007. As part of its ongoing commitment to promote textiles and tribal art in the Bay Area, the association dedicated the proceeds from its opening gala to the Fine Arts Museums' Departments of Textiles, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. A special thank you to all the SF Tribal members for their support.



*Detail of Camel trapping shown on page 3*

## TAC BOARD

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Cynthia Shaver

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Susan York

## Welcome to Our New Members

Through October 31, 2007

Adela Akos  
Linda Anderson  
Sharon Barry  
Bo Breda  
Sylvie Carnot  
Sharon Christovich  
Stephanie Costello  
Donna Curley-Izzo  
Kim Data  
Marjorie DeQuincy  
Lynn Faus  
Conchita Fayos  
Jane Frorath  
Kathleen Fung  
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Ann Goldman  
Carole Hawkes  
Pamela Hiller  
Julie Jomo  
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Marguerite Kaufman  
Sharon McAllister  
Bette McKenzie  
Victor Molina  
Patricia Montgomery  
Margaret Morales  
Georg Palmer  
Lang Anh Pham  
Ellen Resnek  
Kiki Revoir  
Melissa Rinne  
Mary Spont  
Julian Tomchin  
Eve Vanerstoel

# GENERAL CALENDAR

ONGOING

**Until Jan. 13** *The Diane and Sandy Besser Collection*, Herbst Exhibition Galleries, de Young Museum, San Francisco, [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)

**Until Feb. 1** *12<sup>th</sup> International Triennial of Tapestry, Lodz 2007 – The American Artists*, online exhibition, [www.FiberScene.com](http://www.FiberScene.com)

**Until Feb. 2** *Needle Lace: Borne of Thread and Air, Stretching the Limits of the Needle*, Lacis, 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley, [www.lacis.com](http://www.lacis.com) or 510 843-7178

**Until Feb. 17** *Marie-Antoinette and the Petit Trianon at Versailles*, Special Exhibition Galleries and Rosekrans Court, Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

**Until March 2** *The E.M. Bakwin Collection of Indonesian Textiles*, Art Institute of Chicago, [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)

**Until March 23** *Marian Clayden: The Dyer's Hand*, a retrospective, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, [www.sjqmilmuseum.org](http://www.sjqmilmuseum.org), 408 971-0323

**Until March 30** *Central Asian Ikats from the Rau Collection*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

**Until April 1** *Between the Sea and the Desert: The Many Cultures of North Africa*, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto, ON, [www.textilemuseum.ca](http://www.textilemuseum.ca)

**Until Sept. 7** *For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen Weaving*, Textile Galleries, de Young Museum, San Francisco, [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)

**Ongoing** *Pattern Richness in Modern Japanese Textiles*, Seattle Art Museum, [www.seattleartmuseum.org](http://www.seattleartmuseum.org)

**Until May 7** *Exoticism: the Influence of Asia and Africa on Western Fashion*, the Museum at FIT, NY, [www.fitnyc.edu/museum](http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum)

## FEBRUARY

**Feb. 1 – April 15** *Latvian Show*, online gallery exhibition, [www.FiberScene.com](http://www.FiberScene.com)

**Feb. 1 – March 23** *California Fibers*, Visions Art Quilt Gallery, San Diego, CA, [www.quiltvisions.org](http://www.quiltvisions.org)

**Feb. 7** *Opening Night Gala, Tribal and Textile Arts Show*, Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason, San Francisco. Benefit for the Textiles, Africa Oceania, and Americas departments of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. For Gala tickets, contact Ashley Stropes at 415 750-7656 or [astropes@famsf.org](mailto:astropes@famsf.org)

**Feb. 8 – 10** *San Francisco Tribal and Textile Arts Show*, Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason, San Francisco. For ticket information [www.caskeylees.com](http://www.caskeylees.com)

**Feb.10 – Apr. 27** *The Contemporary Katagami: Works of Jennifer Falck Linssen*, contemporary paper objects, The Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA, [www.cafam.org](http://www.cafam.org)

## MARCH

**March 7 – April 12** *Beads of Whimsy*, a juried exhibition of contemporary beadwork, Textile Center, Minneapolis, MN, [www.textilecentermn.org](http://www.textilecentermn.org)

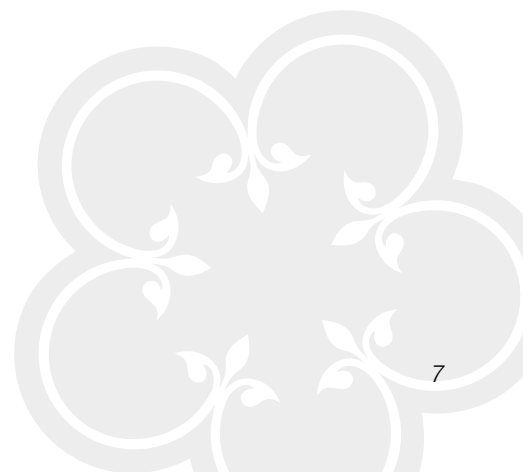
**March 30 – April 5** *Quilted Paintings on Silk*, TAC board member Linda Gass teaches a five-day workshop at Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. For information and to register, go to [www.arrowmont.org](http://www.arrowmont.org)

**March – August** *Indigo*, Textile Museum, Washington, DC, [www.textilemuseum.org](http://www.textilemuseum.org)

## HOLD THE DATE

**May 2 – 7** *56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers (CNCH), "The California Trail"*, Double Tree Hotel, Arden Way, Sacramento, CA. Program and class listings and registration information available at [www.cnch.org](http://www.cnch.org)

**June 4 – 10** *Shibori Symposium*, Textile Center, Minneapolis, MN. Workshop presenters will include Yoshiko Wada, Ana Lisa Hedstrom, Jan Myers Newbury, and Chad Alice Hagen. [www.textilecentermn.org/shibori08.asp](http://www.textilecentermn.org/shibori08.asp)



January  
2008

# Textile Arts Council

Don't miss these exciting TAC events!

■ Trappings And Tents: New Perspectives On Central Asian Turkmen Weavings  
With **S. Peter Poullada**

Saturday, January 12

Koret Auditorium  
de Young Museum

■ Enfolding History And Flux: Sumba Textiles Through Present Times  
With **Jill Forshee**

Saturday, February 9

Koret Auditorium  
de Young Museum

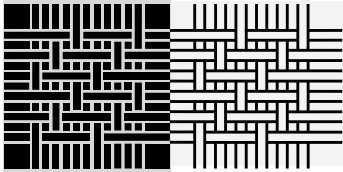
■ Design And Pattern In The Textile Arts Of Central Asia  
With **Carol Bier**

Saturday, March 22

Koret Auditorium  
de Young Museum

Fine Arts  
Museums of  
San Francisco

de Young  
Legion  
of Honor



## Textile Arts Council

de Young Museum

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive Golden Gate Park San Francisco, CA 94118-4501 415-750-3627

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January  
2008

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