

TEXTILE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
&
New England Rug Society

present



Pip Rau in her London shop

PULL OF THE THREAD: Textile Travels of a Generation

with

Sheila Fruman

Author and Traveler, New York

Travel has always been inspiring, and particularly “exotic” travel, especially for creative people. In her new book, *Pull of the Thread: Textile Travels of a Generation*, Sheila Fruman has concentrated on 9 intrepid travelers from the 1960s and up to now, who in their youth, combed the streets and bazaars of Central and South Asia finding, researching, collecting and selling antique woven ikat and embroidered Uzbek textiles and robes, Kashmir shawls, Anatolian kilims, Turkmen carpets and many other textile treasures to interested Westerners. This generation of dealers and collectors all made important and even essential contributions to their fields, publishing books, staging exhibitions, and often gifting items to major institutions such as the V&A and MET. The indigenous designs and motifs popularized in the US and Europe by these textile travelers can now be found in anything from haute couture to high-end interior design to mass-marketed bedding, tableware and clothing. The dealers and collectors who spent their lives seeking these complex pieces of the past have intriguing stories to tell and collections of some of the finest textiles of their kind in the world. Taken together, their stories are an enlightening guide to understanding how we connect to the past, and how textiles connect the world.

Sheila Fruman’s travels overland in 1969-70 from London to Mumbai aroused a keen interest in textiles and carpets, but she returned to her native Canada for the next twenty-five years to work in politics and government and to earn a Master’s Degree in Communication. When she went to Algeria in 2001 to conduct workshops for political parties, it was the start of fifteen years working to support democratization in post-conflict countries for the Washington, D.C. based National Democratic Institute and the United Nations. Finding herself living in some of the countries she had first visited in 1969, including three years in the Balkans, a year as UNDP Head of External Relations for Parliamentary Elections in Kabul, four years as NDI Country Director in Pakistan, and over a year as an advisor for the UN in Bangladesh, she pursued her love of handmade antique carpets and textiles. Further travel and study led her to author a book about fellow textile travelers.

Saturday, October 21 -- 10 am PT / 1 pm ET / 6 pm BST - London

Virtual via Zoom

REGISTRATION: <https://tinyurl.com/TMAPullrgrbt>



Frank Ames



Kate FitzGibbon



Andy Hale

TMA/SC UPCOMING PROGRAMS and RUG & TEXTILE COMMUNITY NEWS:

www.facebook.com/tmascinc/ info@tmasc.org ***www.tmasc.org***

(Please note that our new web site is under construction, and current programs cannot be added at this time)

**Saturday,
November 11, 2023**

“TRULY TRIBAL” in SOUTH PERSIAN WEAVINGS with James Opie, co-sponsored with the Hajji Baba Club. **Virtual Program.**

RUG AND TEXTILE LECTURES, VIRTUAL / ZOOM PROGRAMS, SYMPOSIA and FAIRS*

*To find out about these programs directly, sign up for these organizations' and institutions' email send-outs.

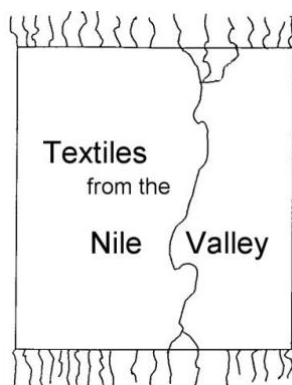
* For your Time Zone, go to <https://dateful.com/time-zone-converter> and enter the event date and time, and your local city.

"ADD-DRESSING MARGINS": HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED FASHION AND STYLE **Virtual via Zoom** October 27 & 28, 2023. The Association of Dress Historians. A Collaborative International Conference seeking to elevate voices and knowledge about all and any marginalised dress cultures throughout history. For this conference, we seek to centre work focusing on historically marginalised communities, fashion, style, and dress in historic and modern contexts. Details and Registration: <https://dresshistorians.org/international-conference-2023/>



ANTIQUE RUG & TEXTILE SHOW: ARTS San Francisco **In-person show.** **Oct. 27-29, 2023.** Capri Motel, 2015 Greenwich St, San Francisco CA 94123 Over the last two decades ARTS has established itself as the leading fair in both the US and internationally for authentic and unique antique rugs and ethnographic textiles and an annual highlight for collectors and dealers alike. “This is where dealers and collectors come to shop.” Top international dealers will be participating in the ARTS Dealers’ Row. Ask about our seminars for collectors and those new to collecting and decorating with antique rugs and textiles. **Please RSVP for our Opening Reception and Early Buying, Friday October 27, 2023 at 2:30 pm.** An individual Middle Eastern boxed dinner along with wine and refreshments will be served starting at 5:00 pm. More details: <https://artsrugshow.net/>

DYES IN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY 2023 Annual International Conference: October 31 - November 3, 2023, Copenhagen, Denmark. **Call for Papers:** Dyes in History and Archaeology (DHA) is an annual international conference that focuses on the academic discussion of dyes and organic pigments used in the past. Every year since 1982, this meeting has drawn together conservators, curators, (technical) art historians, craftspeople, artists, scientists, and academics from museums, universities, research centres, and other public or private institutions. The aim of the conference is to bring these specialists together to delve deeply into the history, archaeology, production and application, and properties of organic colourants, as well as their analytical characterization and identification. The focus is often on textile objects, but also on other substrates as well as painted surfaces from all chronological periods. Details: <https://conferencemanager.events/dyesinhistoryandarchaeology>



The conference will take place from **November 18 & 19, 2023** at the Katoen Natie HeadquARTers (Van Aerdtsstraat 33, 2060 Antwerp) starting with a reception and a light meal on Friday evening. Our congress is planned as an on-site-event, but of course we will adapt to pandemic measures that may be necessary. This year's main topic is dedicated to "Silk textiles from Egypt and neighbouring countries from Roman to Mamluk times"

Conference Details and Registration:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/a37991c4801/531c93d8-28e1-45f2-a128-8f4f05b1a7af.pdf>

LOOKING FORWARD, REFLECTING BACK: Costume Society of America. Symposium, May 21 through 25, 2024. Call for Papers! We invite YOU to participate in the Costume Society of America's 50th annual meeting and symposium--as a clothing maker/designer, independent researcher, professor, instructor, student, museum curator, living history interpreter, conservator, collector, or anyone actively researching a subject related to dress and adornment, we want to hear from you! CSA and the Mid-Atlantic Region invite you to submit a proposal for research to be shared with your fellow members at the Annual Meeting and Symposium to be held in the history-rich heart of Washington, DC. **The deadline is October 15, 2023:** DETAILS: abstractscommittee@costumesocietyamerica.com



VIRTUAL & ACTUAL EXHIBITIONS of RUGS AND TEXTILES



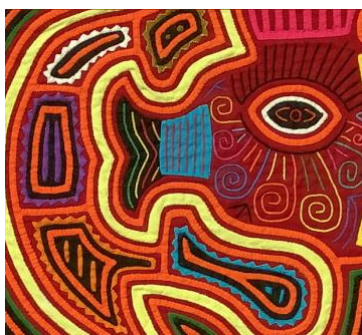
TEXTILE MASTERS TO THE WORLD: THE GLOBAL DESIRE FOR INDIAN CLOTH Exhibition. Through December 31. Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. From India to the world, and back again, this exhibition presents a selection of exquisite garments and textiles in its latest refresh of its Fashion and Textiles Gallery. *Textile Masters to the World: the global desire for Indian Cloth* spotlights the historic global impact of textile production in India, and its role as evidence of trade and cultural exchange between India and regions such as the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Europe from the 14th to 19th century. More details: <https://www.nhb.gov.sg/acm/whats-on/exhibitions/textile-masters-to-the-world---the-global-desire-for-indian-cloth>

STORIES OF SYRIA'S TEXTILES: ART AND HERITAGE ACROSS TWO MILLENNIA **Exhibition**, October 15, 2023 - January 28, 2024. Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York. This exhibition highlights textiles' outstanding contributions to Syrian culture during antiquity and between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries, as well as today. Syrian textiles are remarkable for their artistic, social, and economic significance. Finely woven clothing and furnishings are the work of highly skilled weavers and other artisans. They are also important markers of status and identity that reflect the local traditions of Syrian cities, villages and nomadic groups, and valuable luxury goods that were traded widely. Details: <https://www.katonahmuseum.org/exhibitions/exhibition/stories-of-syrias-textiles-art-and-heritage-across-two-millennia>



HANDSTITCHED WORLDS: THE CARTOGRAPHY OF QUILTS **Exhibition**. Now – Dec. 23, 2023 George Washington University Textile Museum Washington, D.C. Quilts, like maps, trace the personal stories and experiences of makers and their communities, often illuminating larger historical events and cultural trends. *Handstitched Worlds* draws from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum, with examples ranging from traditional early-American quilts to contemporary sculptural assemblages. This exhibition is organized by the American Folk Art Museum, New York, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. Details: <https://museum.gwu.edu/handstitched-worlds-cartography-quilts>

WIENER WERKSTÄTTE: FROM NATURE TO ABSTRACTION. **Exhibition**. Now - Nov. 5, 2023, George Washington University Textile Museum Washington, D.C. In the early 1900s, artists of the Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshop) propelled Austria into a prolific center of modern design. Organized with Régine Bonnefoit from the University of Neuchâtel and GW professor Kara Braciale, this small display of fabric samples from these pioneering designers also features the work of GW art students inspired by the workshop's legacy. Organized by the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Center in partnership with the Institute of Art History and Museum Studies at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland and GW's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. Details: <https://museum.gwu.edu/wiener-werkstätte-nature-abstraction>



STITCHING AND SHARING CULTURE: MOLAS FROM PANAMA'S GUNA PEOPLE **Exhibition**. Now through November 15, 2023. International Quilt Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska. This exhibition features complex textiles that share the rich imagery, both indigenous and cross-cultural, that Guna women have long incorporated into their stitched handiwork. The exhibition is being curated by University of Nebraska-Lincoln students in Anthropology 292: Special Topics, with help from students from Saitama University (Saitama, Japan), who will participate in a two-week internship at the IQM in early September. Details: <https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibition/stitching-and-sharing-culture-molas-panamas-guna-people>

ASO OKE: PRESTIGE CLOTH FROM NIGERIA **Exhibition**. Now – March 10, 2024 Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri. *Aso Oke: Prestige Cloth from Nigeria* explores textiles created by Yoruba weavers in southwestern Nigeria that were fashioned into clothing for celebratory and ceremonial occasions from the early 19th to late 20th century. Three elemental types of aso oke (ah-shō ōkay)—sanyan (undyed raw silk), alaari (magenta-dyed silk), and etu (indigo)—form the foundation upon which weavers have implemented boundless material and design innovations. Selections from the Museum's permanent collection join recent acquisitions of agbada men's robes, representing the etu, sanyan, and alaari forms of aso oke. Details: <https://www.slam.org/exhibitions/aso-oke-prestige-cloth-from-nigeria/>





INFLUENCES/INFLUENCERS: CALIFORNIA FIBERS Exhibition Now – Dec. 2, 2023, Craft in America Gallery, Los Angeles. California has driven the fiber arts since the mid 20th Century. Countless schools, college programs, workshops, guilds, and artist collectives have led experimentation and development of this artistic medium. The 19 artists in this exhibition are part of a historic organization that has been at the forefront of contemporary fiber art in Southern California, across the state, and far beyond. The work in this exhibition represents some of the vast influences that are shaping fiber art today. It is simultaneously a celebration of how fiber has become a beam of influence on the broader contemporary art world in recent years. Details: <https://www.craftinamerica.org/exhibition/influences-influencers-california-fibers>

THE FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY: PROPAGANDA TEXTILES FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO BREXIT Exhibition. Now – March 3, 2024.

Fashion & Textile Museum (London.) Discover how fabric designers and manufacturers have responded to political upheaval from the French Revolution through to Brexit. The mechanisation of textile industries from the mid-18th century led to the development of print techniques that could create more detailed imagery on cloth, quicker than ever before. These increasingly affordable processes 'democratised' textile decoration, allowing governments, regimes, and corporations to harness the power of print to communicate, from wartime slogans to revolutionary ideals. Details: <https://www.fashiontextilemuseum.org/exhibitions/the-fabric-of-democracy>



WOVEN HISTORIES: TEXTILES AND MODERN ABSTRACTION Exhibition now – January 21, 2024. Los Angeles County Museum of Art. *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction* foregrounds a robust if over-looked strand in art history's modernist narratives by tracing how, when, and why abstract art intersected with woven textiles (and such pre-loom technologies as basketry, knotting, and netting) over the past century. Although at times unevenly weighted, the diverse exchanges, alignments, affiliations, and affinities that have brought these art forms into dialogue constitute an ongoing if intermittent narrative in which one art repeatedly impacts and even redefines the other. Details: <https://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/woven-histories-textiles-and-modern-abstraction>

HORIZONS: WEAVING BETWEEN THE LINES WITH DINÉ TEXTILES

Exhibition Now - June 2, 2024, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Santa Fe, New Mexico. *Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles* showcases more than 30 textiles and related items from the extensive collection at MIAC. Historical and contemporary weavings will be displayed alongside materials, tools, digital prints, photographs, and other immersive media. "As forms of visual storytelling, Diné weaving and photography are created in collaboration with one's surroundings," said Rapheal Begay (Diné), photographer and *Horizons* co-curator." Details: <https://www.museumfoundation.org/exhibitions/horizons-weaving-between-the-lines-with-dine-textiles-2/>



INFINITE SPACE, SUBLIME HORIZONS, Exhibition, Now – December 10, Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA. Born and raised in Iceland, Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson has spent the last 30 years in Cleveland, Ohio, where she has made increasingly ambitious work that veers between abstraction and representation, with deep connections to Iceland's otherworldly landscapes. Jónsson creates exquisite large-scale paintings on a loom, in a practice that blurs the boundaries between painting and weaving, fine art and craft. Bringing together Jónsson's largest and most labor-intensive paintings yet, alongside smaller paintings, drawings, and watercolors, this will be the artist's first West Coast exhibition and her first solo museum exhibition in the U.S. in nearly a decade. Video: <https://vimeo.com/62646272> Details: <https://arts.pepperdine.edu/museum/2023-2024/jonsson-infinitespace.htm>

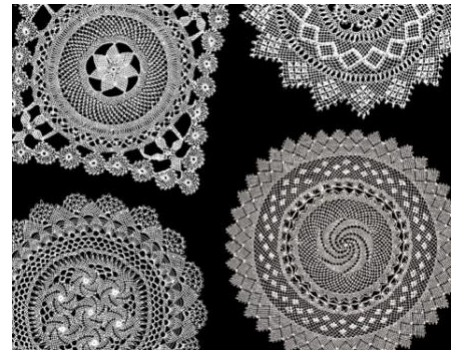
DAY'S END: PERSONAL GLAMOUR EXPOSED Exhibition. Now - April 2024.

The Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles, Berkeley, California. This newly unveiled exhibit allows us to peek into the closets of history to reveal our most intimate items of clothing: the things never worn around strangers or out of the house. It is a joyful exploration of the gorgeous and often sensuous attire worn in private, like nightgowns, robes, and pajamas, from the 1860s to the 1930s. Such garments represented the shedding of one's public life to transition into a personal world of comfort and glamour. These historical clothes were worn for personal pleasure and sometimes included intricate details that only one's closest loved ones ever saw. Details: <https://lacismuseum.org/exhibits.html>



JANYAK: ARMENIAN ART OF KNOTS AND LOOPS Exhibition.

Now – February, 2024. Fowler Museum, UCLA. For centuries Armenian *janyak* (*ճալյալ*) or needle lace has been a precious link for Armenians across the world. A portable and enduring art form passed from mother to daughter, it has connected generations both in their homeland and in the diaspora, transmitting cultural heritage and values. *Janyak* may seem a relatively simple craft utilizing only a needle and thread to produce embellishments for furniture and clothing, but the precision and creativity required to execute and innovate motifs make it a vibrant form of artistry in its own right. Link to information: <https://fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/janyak-armenian-art-knots-loops/>



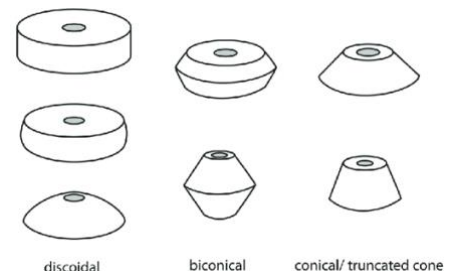
WHAT THAT QUILT KNOWS ABOUT ME, Exhibition, Now – October 29, 2023, American Folk Art Museum, New York City/Manhattan. Featuring approximately 40 quilts and related works of art, the exhibition will explore the deeply personal and emotional power associated with the experience of making and living with quilts. The exhibition's title conveys the idea that quilts have the capacity for "knowing" or containing information about the human experience. Reflecting on this sentiment, the exhibition presents quilts as collections of intimate stories. Spanning from the 19th through 21st centuries, the works on view will reveal a range of poignant and sometimes unexpected biographies. From a pair of enslaved sisters in antebellum Kentucky to a convalescent British soldier during the Crimean War, the exhibition explores stories associated with both the makers and recipients of the works. Details:

<https://folkartmuseum.org/exhibitions/whatthatquiltknowsaboutme/>

ONLINE ARTICLES, BOOKS and VIDEOS/RECORDINGS on RUGS and TEXTILES

THE ORIGINS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN WEAVING TRADITIONS: THE PERSPECTIVE FROM ARCHAEOLOGY by Christopher D.

Buckley, Wolfson College, Oxford. **Paper.** This paper by Weaving history researcher and scholar Chris Buckley presents a new map and account of the emergence and spread of spindle whorls in archaeological sites across southern China and southeast Asia. Spindle whorls are evidence of intensive yarn production, and hence of weaving. In the past two decades a considerable amount of new data on the presence of spindle whorls in the archaeological record has come to light, along with improved dates for existing sites. In mainland southeast Asia the occurrences of spindle whorls are linked to the emergence and spread of Neolithic lifeways, including rice farming. A free copy of this paper can be downloaded [here](#)





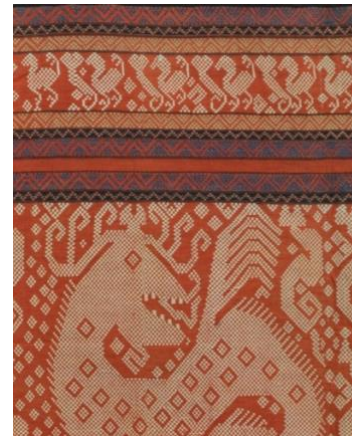
EVERY CULTURE APPROPRIATES **Article.** What is cultural appropriation? The question is less whether a dress or an idea is borrowed, than the uses to which it's then put. The question is inspired by a spasm of social-media cruelty that caught wide attention recently. A young woman in Utah bought a Chinese-style dress to wear to her high school formal. She posted some photographs of herself on her personal Instagram page—and suddenly found herself the target of virulent online abuse. Yet the idea persists that there is something wrong and oppressive about people of one background adopting and adapting the artifacts of another. Read: <https://getpocket.com/explore/item/every-culture-appropriates>

CHINESE LOTUS SHOES, AND A LOTUS SHOE ASHTRAY **Article,** Textile Research Centre, Leiden. Quirina Vreeburg is slowly donating her collection of Han and Manchu Chinese textiles, garments and accessories to the TRC. The first few boxes came in a few months ago and they contained skirts, panels, and gowns. Just recently she came with another three boxes of items, mainly filled with embroidered pieces, including garments, panels, bags and 25 pairs of Chinese shoes, plus a single, tiny shoe – I will come back to this piece below. Read the details: <https://www.trc-leiden.nl/trc/index.php/en/blog/1560-chinese-lotus-shoes>



SEA CHANGE: OTTOMAN TEXTILES FROM 1400 – 1800. **Recording.** October 7, 8 am PT / 11 am ET / 4 pm BST - London. The Textile Museum/GWU in partnership with the New England Rug Society and the Hajji Baba Club. During the Ottoman Empire, the sale and exchange of silks, cottons and wools generated immense revenue and touched every level of society. As attested by surviving objects, trade with Italy, Iran and India was supplemented by both extraordinary and mundane textiles exchanged within the empire. Based on her recent book, *Sea Change*, Amanda Phillips offers a brief history of the Ottoman textile sector, arguing that the trade's enduring success resulted from its openness to expertise and objects from far-flung locations. **Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/channels/1643456>

CHANGING WOMEN'S FASHION ON THE INDONESIAN ISLAND OF SUMBA with David and Susan Richardson. **Recording.** Saturday, July 29, 2023 8 am PT / 11 am ET / 4 pm BST – London. The Textile Museum/GWU (Washington, DC.) The weavers of the small island of Sumba in eastern Indonesia produce some of the finest warp ikat and supplementary warp textiles in Southeast Asia. Known mostly for their dramatic pictorial men's blankets (hinggi), their tube skirts for women (lau) have gained much less attention. Yet the variety and complexity of these lau are remarkable. In this virtual talk David and Sue Richardson will show a range of different lau, using historical images to illustrate how styles have changed over time. The Richardsons will also discuss some of the techniques used to produce these intricate textiles. Recording: <https://vimeo.com/849768889?fbclid=IwAR0k0n9WuDyhcE443PI-sgmEnGDay4ehNxzFLpuYYHlqNT3xc5YdWWTXR47s>





TEXTILE TRAVELS: PARIS / TEXTILE TRAVELS: LONDON Books Two digital travel guides for textile lovers have been launched by Rebecca Devaney of Textile Tours of Paris and Jo Andrews, the host of the podcast Haptic & Hue's Tales of Textiles. They say: 'We decided the time has come for us to share the extraordinary knowledge of little streets, the markets, the tiny shops and the forgotten craftspeople of London and Paris that come from our years of guiding people around these districts and digging out the wonderful textile stories of both these cities.' Both *Textile Travels* books can be purchased from the Textile Tours of Paris website: <https://www.textiletoursofparis.com/textile-travels>

SCANDINAVIAN FOLK TEXTILES a new Facebook group started by Joel Greifinger (of the NERS, the England Rug Society.) Joel has developed a new interest in Scandinavian textiles, and is looking for other interested people to share his Facebook page: This group is dedicated to posting, discussing and appreciating Scandinavian folk textiles, especially those from the 17th through the 19th centuries. In addition to highlighting the textiles themselves, posts that help illuminate their social, cultural and economic context are welcome. This includes the history and ongoing activities of museums and handicraft associations that have preserved many of these artifacts and encouraged interest in passing on the weaving skills involved in their creation. Participate: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6534985116561646>



FASHION SHOW IN WASHINGTON DISPLAYS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF KAZAKHSTAN The National Museum of Asian Art in Washington, D.C. hosted a fashion show highlighting Kazakh craft traditions as part of the Soul of Tengri program at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, reported Kazinform news agency on July 13. The show, organized by the Smithsonian Artisan Initiative, the Kazakh Union of Artisans, and Chevron, featured collections by three local artisans – Aizhan Bekkulova, Aizhan Sembigaliyeva and Tilek Sultan. Bekkulova presented handmade Turkic clothing, including wool headdresses shaped like sun-headed deities based on petroglyphs found in southeastern Kazakhstan, which garnered significant interest. Details: https://astanatimes.com/2023/07/fashion-show-in-washington-displays-rich-cultural-heritage-of-kazakhstan/?mc_cid=26f36be4ff&mc_eid=3261b1bd44

