

THE NEW ART OF THE LOOM

Contemporary International Tapestry

TOURING EXHIBITION WITH 24 ARTISTS FROM 16 COUNTRIES



"Hopelessness and Possibility" by Burn Soo Song of S. Korea, 2001 196 x 206 cm

"Tapestry is the woven dream we hang on our walls"

– Jean Lurcat (1892-1966)

THE NEW ART OF THE LOOM

ITINERARY

1. LAFAYETTE - Hilliard Art Museum University of Louisiana June 1 - August 4, 2013
2. GATINEAU - Montcalm Gallery (Canada) August 29 - October 6, 2013
3. MONTREAL - Musée des Maîtres et Artisans du Québec Oct. 17 - December 15, 2013
4. FROSTBURG, MD - State University - Roper Art Gallery March 7 - 30, 2014
5. OCALA, FL - The Appleton Museum April 26 - June 29, 2014
6. ST. LOUIS, MO - Webster University - Hunt Gallery August 29 - September 27, 2014
7. LOUISVILLE - Kentucky Museum of Art & Craft Nov. 22, 2014 - Jan. 18, 2015

Venues 8 and 9 for 2015 are to be determined and exact dates will follow

This unique tapestry travel show has been initiated, organized and curated by Dirk Holger

Christine Altona, Malgorzata Buczek, Thomas Cronenberg, Thoma Ewen,
Susan Hart Henegar, Ibolya Hegyi, Barbara Heller, Dirk Holger, Peter Horn,
Susan Iverson, William Kentridge, Lialia Kuchma, Ulrika Leander,
Jean Lurcat, Susan Maffei, Sayed Mahmoud, Ann Naustdal, Inge Norgaard,
Lorna Ramlochansingh, Jon Eric Riis, Burn Soo Song, Miyuki Tatsumi,
Joyce Tien, Henriette Zegers ten Horn



"Eccentric weft" - weaving on a high warp loom

"TO WEAVE OR NOT TO WEAVE: a basic tapestry book for the lay person"

by Dirk Holger (publisher: SCHIFFER BOOKS, 2014)

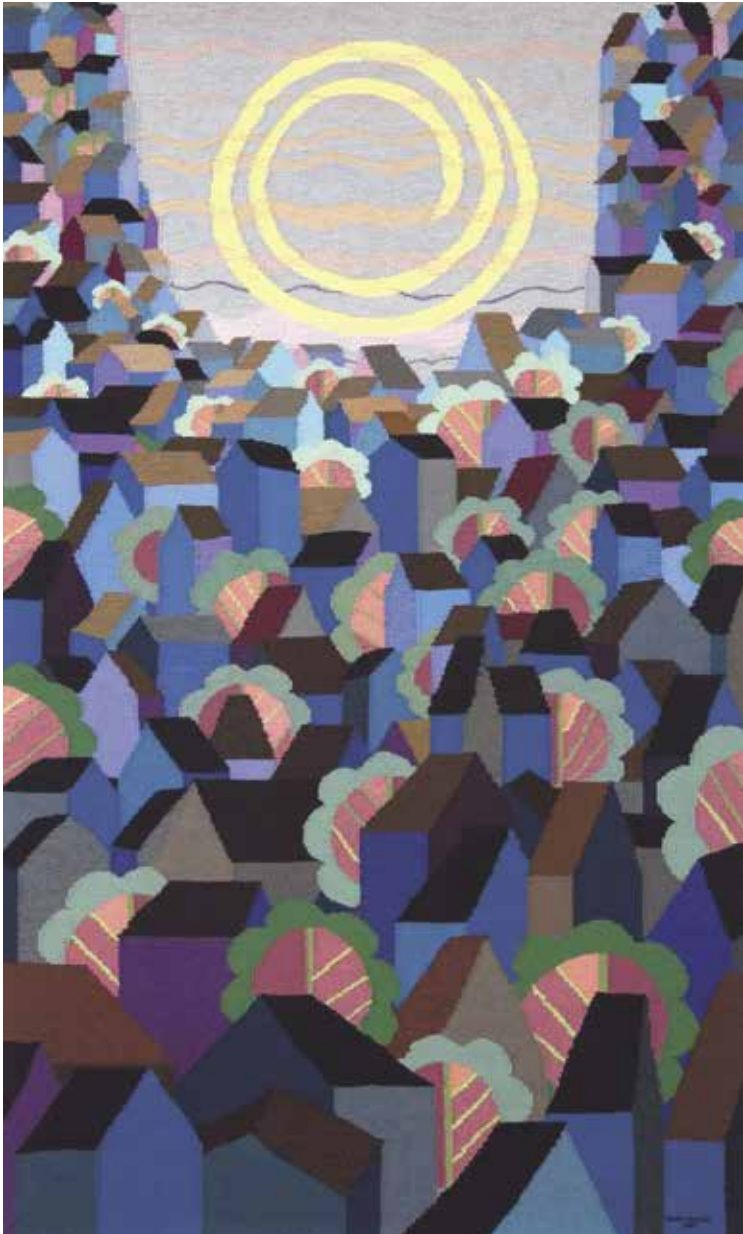
The book gives an overview of style development in the ART of TAPESTRY through 2000 years. Included are 72 contemporary artists with their works. The set at the CLUNY MUSEUM in Paris of the "Lady with the Lion and the Unicorn" will get special attention as Dirk Holger reveals the identity of the mysterious lady in his next publication. For further information on the touring show, on lectures and the book, call the author at 240 342 2644.

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE TAPESTRY SHOW

This international, contemporary tapestry touring show is an eye opener to all who believe that TAPESTRY is a thing of the past. Worldwide, the art of tapestry is very much alive. The hand woven and not painted images in this exhibition combine the ancient craft of hand weaving with contemporary art and design. Who would think that in our fast paced time there are still craftsmen devoting their life to this most time consuming craft-turned-art. Their message is: "In tapestry the craft IS the art!". It takes today on average one weaver one month for one square meter of hand woven tapestry, but some take much longer even. Tapestry making is the weaving together of patience and passion. And this worldwide! Here is a selection of

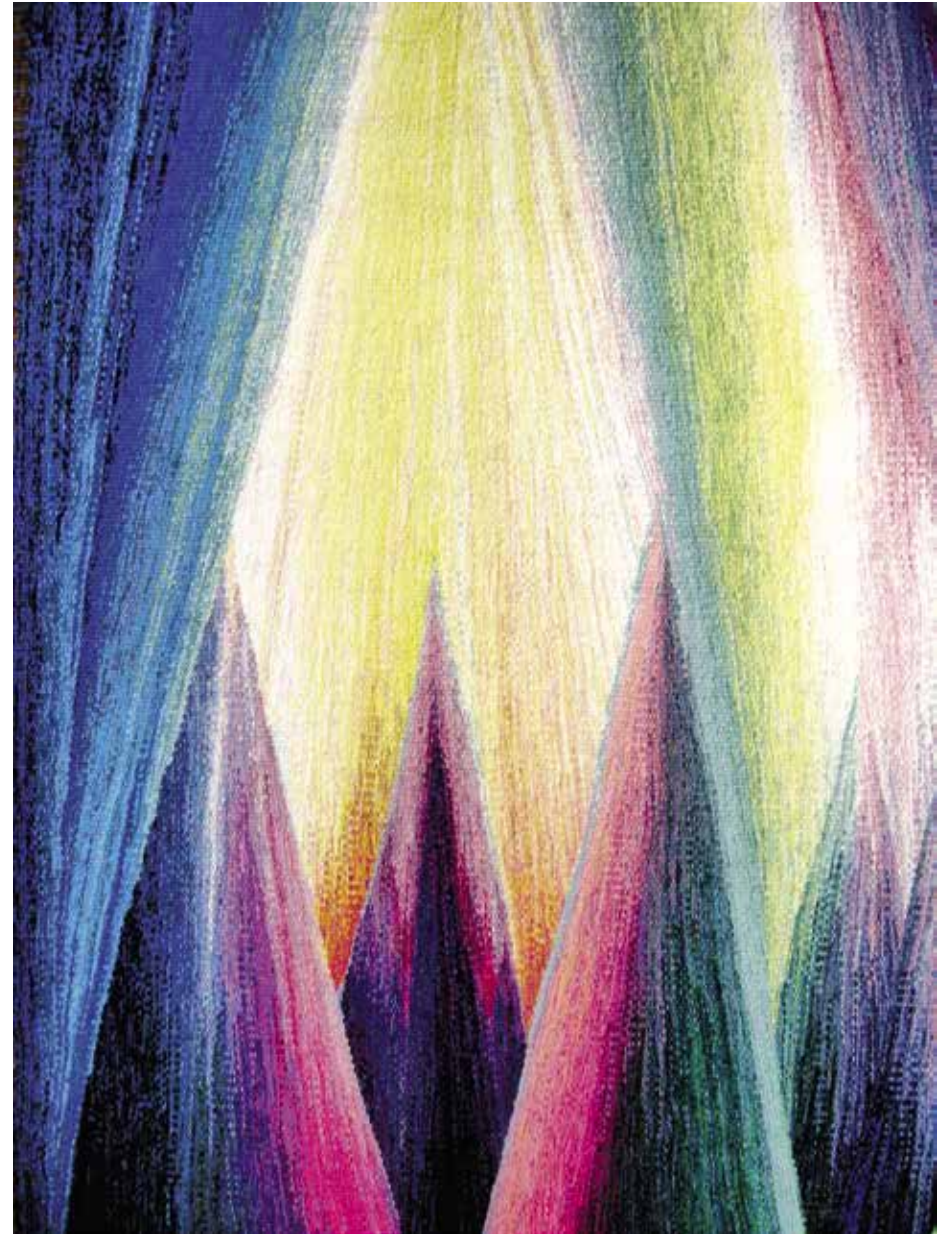
just a few of the 24 artists in the travel show. At some venues the demonstration of the weaving-techniques will be given for all to learn and to appreciate this time-honored craft and to eye witness the love for the perseverance of this "art of the loom". (Dirk Holger)....

Ulrika **LEANDER**, USA born 1946, in Sweden *"Midsummer"* 2007 83 x 57"



Artist's Statement: "I believe that I am drawn to weaving by the endless fascination in matching the gradual unfolding of the chrysalis that is my design into wall-scale tapestry that will uplift the spirit and bring new life to an architectural space."

Thoma **EWEN**, Canada born 1949 *"Aurora Borealis"* 2010 6' x 4'



Artist's Statement: "With each tapestry I attune to the ancient mysteries in the weaver's path...The Navajos believe that weaving transmits the energy of PEACE and to them, that energy describes the very essence of beauty..."



Miyuki **TATSUMI**, Japan
born 1980

"Without Notice" 2008
250 x 97 cm 8'3" x 3'10"

Artist's Statement:

"There are important moments in my life. They keep piling up in my mind. And then I start weaving a tapestry. It is a very precious work for me to weave tapestries by using fibers and by using time fully.... That is the reason why I choose to weave..."

"The delicacy in her weaving by employing the 'hatching' technique is counter-balanced by a strong design element, here: the vertical column, as if trying to prevent the wind from blowing away the tree at the left. Both calmness and disturbance come together to demonstrate for us the elementary powers of nature... Quite wonderfully!" – D.H.

Lialia **KUCHMA**, USA born 1943 in Ukraine

"Luke 1:35" second half of a diptych 119 x 48"

Artist's Statement:

"The right hand panel of 'Luke 1:35' reflects the manifestation of the powerful presence which through incarnation, resulted in the dual qualities of the divine and the mortal."

"The odd shape, the unusual golden coloring and the stunning detail work add to the enigma of this great weaving in two parts..." – D.H.



Jean **LURÇAT**, France (1892-1966)

We contemporary tapestry artists owe all our work's success due to the revivalist of modern tapestry and to his lifelong efforts to "infect the world with the tapestry virus." – D.H.



"Lunaris", 1965, Aubusson Tapestry 64 x 46" Courtesy: Pam and Robert Hart Collection

Statement: "In 'Lunaris' we have part of Lurcat's cosmology gathered on a sun-drenched background. "Tapestry is a song", was his saying. This bright and up-lifting 'melody' is a woven panel with a combination of various, surreal objects that reflect the artist's expression of happiness in a mysterious world."

(Dirk Holger, his last student and assistant in 1964-65)

Susan **MARTIN-MAFFEI**, USA born in 1947

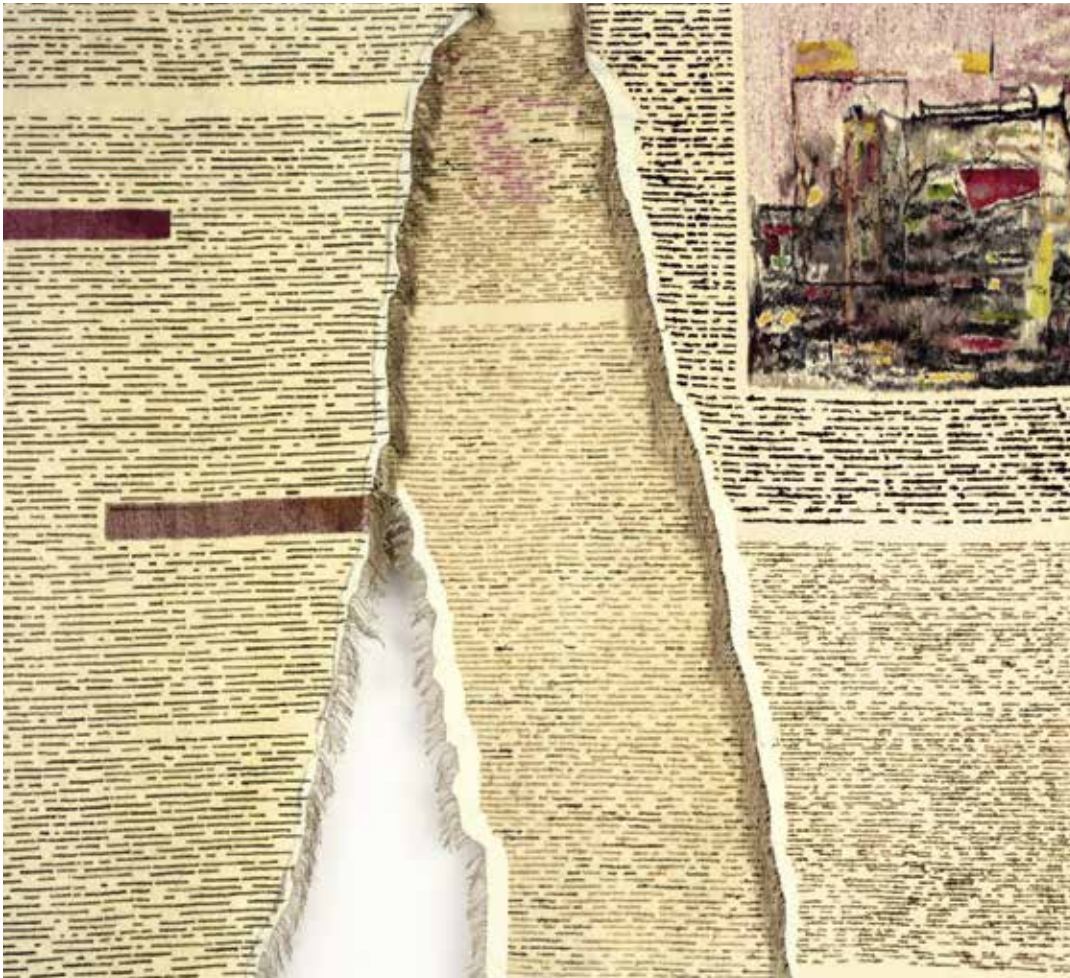
"View from Mme. Touitou", 2001 167 x 98 cm 66 x 38"



Artist's Statement: "My work in tapestry depicts a very personal, graphic view of the surrounding urban landscape... Selective memory, process and material combine to form this imagery which can only exist as textile..."

Malgorzata **BUCZEK-SLEDZINSKA**, Poland born in 1970

Not to be called a 'rigorist' (by defending traditional tapestry) I am including this experimental weaving here, as it has wall power. – D.H.



"Three fragments", 2009 total size of all 5 fragments: 7'3" x 6'3"

Artist's Statement: "I have been attempting to find my own artistic way and the best medium to creatively express myself. Among the techniques I used were painting cycles and tapestry and various objects made of fabric, papers, etc... This interdisciplinary work is the source for my artistic creations..."
(excerpt from a very long statement about her work... D.H)

William **KENTRIDGE**, South Africa born in 1955

"Porter Series": Espagne et Portugal, 2004 99 x 130" Stephens Tapestry Studio, Johannesburg. (Courtesy: Marian Goodman Gallery, New York)



Artist's Statement: "Tapestries and projections (referring to his movie works), both have as their natural scale the size of a wall. The one is a moving fresco and the other is a movable wall, or a transportable fresco... The epic rather than the decorative, seem to be their natural terrain..."
(Quotation from his article in 'To weave or not to weave: a basic tapestry book for the lay person', Schiffer Books, 2014)

There are two weaving methods to produce hand woven tapestry

THE HIGH-WARP WEAVING-TECHNIQUE



The high-warp ("haute lisse") weaving is done on a vertical loom. The weaver sits in front of it and opens the warp with one hand and puts in the weft of colored threads (crossed at right angles) with the other hand.



The opening of the warp on a high-warp loom. This technique is older, more frequently used and more time consuming than low-warp weaving. (Courtesy: Bozena Pychova, Czech Republic)

THE LOW-WARP WEAVING-TECHNIQUE



The low-warp ("basse lisse") weaving is executed on a horizontal loom with the back of the tapestry facing the weaver. The underlying cartoon shows the design in reverse. The advantage of the low-warp loom: the weaver has both hands free for work.



The low-warp method is generally labeled the "Aubusson"-method as the weavers of this city produce their tapestries entirely on horizontal looms. Flanders in the Middle Ages was also famous for its use of the low-warp weaving-technique which allows a much faster way of production and a more solid execution.