JOIN THE FRIENDS FOR 2013

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o Student $15+  o Individual $35+
ο Dual $65+  o Sustainer $75+
ο Patron $100+  o Connoisseur $250+
ο Benefactor $500+  o Grand Benefactor $1,000+

Make your check payable to FRHTG and mail to:
PO. Box 5832, Lincoln, NE 68505

Save the Dates
Sept. 27 Gala Celebration of African Art
Sept. 30 Celebration of Youth XX exhibit opens in the Gallery
Oct. 12 Friends Fundraiser ~ Little Black Dress reception
Oct. 26 Celebration of Youth XX program and reception
Nov. 4 Graduate Student Option II exhibit opens in the Gallery
Dec. 2 Mary Zicafoose Ikat Tapestries & Prints exhibit opens in the Gallery

Nebraska Bishop Method of Clothing Construction is sponsoring a two-day Expo October 4-5, 2013, with national couture clothing designer Kenneth D. King at the Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE. For more information, contact Bishop group President Mary Wendell, 993 Road 23, Axtell, NE 68924.

Fall/Winter 2013/2014

The evening will include wine and heavy hors d’oeuvres by Beacon Hills Catering.
UNL Fashion Design students will model Little Black Dress designs. Only $50 per person.
A live auction will include fiber art by Nebraska artists, Asian & Indian textiles, and much more.
Proceeds will support Hillestad Gallery exhibitions.
Mail your check to: FRHTG P. O. Box 5832 Lincoln, NE 68505
Call 402-475-0768 or email lisawarren@neb.rr.com
This fall, the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery is continuing to celebrate 20 years of showcasing textiles and fiber art! It is always exciting to unveil the new Gallery Calendar for the coming year that Gallery Director Wendy Weiss has worked so hard to finalize. You are the first to read about the upcoming exhibits highlighted in this edition of our newsletter.

The Friends are planning a very special “Little Black Dress” Fundraising event on October 12. Enjoy a fabulous array of hors d’oeuvres and wine while watching the University of Nebraska – Lincoln fashion design students and Dr. Barbara Trout's class Experimental Apparel Design model their little black dresses. Our live auction will feature awesome fiber art by notable Nebraska artists, as well as Indian and Asian textiles, with proceeds benefiting the Gallery. An event you won’t want to miss!

Your Friends Board is working on an exceptional program for the 4-H purple ribbon winners from the Nebraska State Fair during the Celebration of Youth XX on October 26. We’d like to have you join us that afternoon to see their amazing projects in the Gallery, hear the artists speak about their work, and dine at our pizza buffet with the students and their families. The youth of Nebraska constantly amaze me – I look forward to this annual Gallery exhibit more than any other.

I am anxious to view the ikat tapestries and prints by Mary Zicafaso of Omaha in December. I have always been fond of her work and am glad that she has a solo show in the Hillestad Gallery. Her contemporary, visual statements in fiber can be found worldwide.

Finally, the Friends recently received a “Gallery Wish List” from Michael James, Department Chair of Textiles, Experimental Apparel Design, and Gallery Director Wendy Weiss. We are hopeful that the Friends can help provide funding for desired expenditures to enhance the Gallery and would love to have your help financing some of these items. If you would like to donate to this cause, please feel free to contact me. Your support is vital in sustaining the Gallery as an exceptional resource for students, faculty and the community.

Share our passion for textiles and join us at a Gallery exhibit, reception, or upcoming event. We thank all of our Friends Board members listed in this issue of Uncommon Threads who have helped support the Gallery during its 20th year celebration!

Lisa Warren
Board President
Friends of the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery
lisa.warren@nhebr.com

Friends Members 2013

Judy Schrock
Von Schweiger
Coralee Scrsntom
Rhonda Seacrest
Helen Sellen
Rebecca Shadbolt
Verla Rarrick Shaner
Ann & Bud Sidles
Stacey Skild
Danna Sorensen
Ileana Soto
April Stevenson
Carol A. Stewart
Trudy Stearam
Deanna Suhr
Lori Swanson
Ariel Swenson
Sue E. Tompall
Chris Taylor
Carol Thayer
Lucinda Thompson
Jeri Timmons
Margie Trembley
Dorothy Tuma
Julia Van Meter
Diane Vigna
Vienna Volante
Steve Wake
Diana Weese
Gale Warren
Lisa Warren
Mark Warren
Virginia Wurtzles
Joan T Weiss
Wendy Weiss
Mary Wendell, NE Bishop Methodist
Jeanne Wilson
Kathleen Wirth
Ann Wood
Mary Zicafaso
Linda Zillig

Students
Josephine Alaba
Melissa Arkeld
Carin Aubshun
Maddox Ayres
Margaret Bassett
Laura Bennett
Megan Berry
Abby Bills
Linsie Bode
Salem Boehm
Crystal Brashage
Angela Brothers
Briana Campbell
Michaela Chashek
Rachel Christensen

From the Director ~
Summer allows time for travel. Driving provides the luxury of exploration and so in less than 10 days my husband Jay and I had the privilege of stepping at some fascinating venues. We left Lincoln on a Tuesday morning and on Thursday we visited DIA Beacon, situated on the Hudson not far from NYC.

It was my first time to see this beautifully renovated Nabisco box factory with both interior and exterior design plans by Robert Irwin. I loved the huge installation of Andy Warhol’s Shadows, created in 1978-79, a massive series of paintings, combined with screen printing and several rooms of Sol LeWitt's wall drawings. Paintings by Agnes Martin created a serene space that demanded introspection.

Another room was Illuminated, a permanent installation designed by Do Ho Su. It is eye opening to view the different spaces and pathways that are created by Su. It is beyond words to describe the impact of the immersive environment.

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The next day my mother and I drove to Paterson, NJ to see the former Dolphin Jute Factory, whose owners aspired to invigorate the art scene on this side of the Hudson River.

It’s cavernous chambers and mill floors left me dreaming of possibility.

As we begin a new academic year, possibilities abound. Dr. Barbara Trout and Michael James, Chair of the Department, beautifully installed the current gallery exhibit of Natalie Hahn’s collection of textiles, apparel and objects. That show will remain open until September 20. Please plan to join us for a gala opening featuring African art.

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Wendy Weiss
Gallery Director
Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi (1852-1926) inspired Adrienne Anderson to design the garment and accessory collection presented in this exhibition. Through the work, she explores architectural form, innovative surface design techniques, and identity in dress.

May 19-September 5, 2014
Sarah Wagner
Yard / Zone / Field
Sarah Wagner, from Banglatown, Detroit finds inspiration in her constantly changing neighborhood. Detroit is home to the dynamic fusion of naturally occurring flora, surviving domestic gardens amidst re-greening spaces, increasing pheasant and fox populations and heaping doses of unsupervised dumping. Paper and tape, fabric and thread reflect Wagner’s philosophical imperatives fusing impermanence, degradability and adaptivity.

May 19-September 5, 2014
Kirby Zicafoose
Mountain for Buddha: Wine, ikat and adaptivity.

Sarah Wagner's yard, zone, and field are woven into her designs, reflecting the changing landscape of Detroit and the impermanence of its environment.

Projects from top winners at the 2013 Nebraska State Fair 4-H in Clothing, Home Environment, and Quilt Quest areas. Artists are between 10 and 19 years old and demonstrate the creative promise of Nebraska youth today.

November 4 - November 22, 2013
Project Gaudi – Graduate Student Option II
Adrienne Anderson

The story of Japanese influence on fashion design is presented through a look at Japanese motifs and coloration; Japanese handicrafts and world famous Japanese designers. Traditional Japanese kimonos, made with natural dyes, are also shown.

April 7 - May 9, 2014
Complexity
Biennial international juried exhibit organized by Complex Weavers

This exhibit features works that employ complex weave structures that interlace threads and fibers in ways beyond plain weave. Complex Weavers is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of hand weaving, to encourage weavers to develop their own creative styles, to inspire through research, documentation, and the sharing of innovative ideas.

Jury: Marguerite Gingrich, Alice Schlein, and Wendy Weiss

FOR THE BODY, FOR THE SOUL:
AFRICAN TEXTILES AND COSTUMES FROM THE NATALIE HAHN COLLECTION
July 13 through September 20, 2013

Textiles and clothing are among a culture’s most important artifacts, providing clues to its humanity, social structures and ceremonial practices. Dr. Natalie Hahn’s collection provides evidence of these aspects of civilization in several African countries between the years 1977 and 2007. These artifacts, including sculpture and baskets, were collected by Dr. Hahn, an alumnus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s College of Education and Human Sciences, during the years when she worked with people throughout Africa under the aegis of organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the United Nations –New York. A native of Polk, Nebraska, Dr. Hahn has distinguished herself as an international home economist by enhancing the lives of people in over 33 states in Africa, in countries as distinct and diverse as Nigeria, Ethiopia and Malawi. Working as colleague and mentor she was revered by the people of these communities who honored her with gifts of appreciation, many in the form of textiles and ceremonial dress. She was the first white woman to be named a chief of the Yoruba tribe in 1987 for her groundbreaking work in introducing soybeans as a food crop to the women of Nigeria. Her work and travels allowed her to pursue her love of people and textiles by acquiring items from local artisans and craftpersons in such locations as Ghana, Senegal and Benin.
Meeting these needs would significantly strengthen the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery programming and operations. Needless to say, 4,000 objects in our historic collections, would be extremely beneficial. A 20 hour per week part time position with this kind of support would be another plus for both TMFD and the Hillestad Gallery. Faculty time is always spread thin, with many competing responsibilities, and old, will continue to provide supplementary exhibition space for Hillestad Gallery shows. We look forward to replacing the remaining wall display cases adjoining the weaving and general design studios. New cases will offer more display space which all of our students will use at some point in their time in TMFD corridor and in the near future we hope to be able to replace the remaining wall display cases adjoining the weaving and general design studios. New cases will offer more display space which all of our students will use at some point in their time in the department, and will also offer additional exposure for our historic costume and textiles collections. All of these cases, new and old, will continue to provide supplementary exhibition space for Hillestad Gallery shows. We look forward to replacing the two remaining old cases with new ones that will cost about $10,000 each.

If you've been in the department recently you've no doubt noticed that we've created new display cases at either end of the TMFD corridor and in the near future we hope to be able to replace the remaining wall display cases adjoining the weaving and general design studios. New cases will offer more display space which all of our students will use at some point in their time in the department, and will also offer additional exposure for our historic costume and textiles collections. All of these cases, new and old, will continue to provide supplementary exhibition space for Hillestad Gallery shows. We look forward to replacing the two remaining old cases with new ones that will cost about $10,000 each.

Looking into the future we hope to be able one day to underwrite the cost of an annual 9 month student graduate assistantship focused on the gallery and our collections, with the aim to strengthen their documentation, accession and exhibition. A graduate assistantship, including benefits, runs to about $13,500 annually, not an insignificant sum when you consider that to recruit and retain great grad students, that assistantship needs to be available for at least two years.

Likewise, being able to fund a half time managerial/professional employee with curatorial and archiving responsibilities would be another plus for both TMFD and the Hillestad Gallery. Faculty time is always spread thin, with many competing responsibilities, and to have a qualified professional in position to bring some real focus to the cataloguing, preparation and maintenance of our collection, would be extremely beneficial. A 20 hour per week part time position with this kind of profile would cost roughly $18,000 to $20,000 over a fiscal year, including benefits.

Meeting these needs would significantly strengthen the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery programming and operations. Needless to say, numerous others exist. As the department secures funding that will allow us to realize some of our dreams, we will continue our investments in the gallery. We’ve all benefitted enormously from all that the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery has brought to campus life.

Michael James, Chairperson of the Department of Textiles, Merchandising, & Fashion Design (TMFD)

Focus on Founding Friend Rita Kean

Dr. Rita Kean brings to the Board a wealth of background and experience from the field of education, the corporate world, and service to numerous professional, civic and arts organizations. Throughout her long and distinguished career, she has served UNL as a Professor in the area of merchandising, Chair of the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design (TMFD), Associate Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Acting Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. She is a Fellow in both the American Council on Education and the International Textile and Apparel Association for which she serves as President. The findings of her research have been reported in numerous professional journals. Currently, she serves as Chair of the TMFD Graduate Program and as Academic Administrator for the EN Thompson Forum on Global Issues.

Dr. Kean served as Gallery Director for the Textiles, Clothing and Design Gallery until 1996 when she appointed Wendy Weiss to the position. The gallery was later renamed The Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. She has been supportive of the Friends since its inception and has served several terms on the Board. She recently completed a two year term as Secretary and currently serves on the Fundraising Committee. We value her many contributions to the Friends as a Founding Member.

Mary Zicafoose
Mountains & Ghosts: New Ikat Tapestries & Prints
December 2, 2013-January 17, 2014

The gallery is pleased to announce that Mary Zicafoose, past Friends Board member, will be presenting her new body of work this winter in her exhibition Mountains & Ghosts: New Ikat Tapestries & Prints, which runs from December 2, 2013 to January 17, 2014. The pieces in this exhibition are the first to follow her Grasslands series, an extensive body of tapestries, carpets and prints that are topographic maps and records of her experiences with the Nebraska landscape. Mary writes, “Since childhood I have been a student of the horizon, always searching for the line where earth meets sky, finding great excitement in re-ordering the classic and familiar dividing line of power in both my tapestries and works on paper.”

Typically, Mary finds herself working in a series with themes based on archetypal life symbols, looking to the details of where sky meets prairie and merging them into an abstracted meditation. Mary elaborates, saying “The classic symbol of the mountain expressed as pyramid, triangle and temple is the recognizable visual metaphor for this body of new work. My intention is for this powerful symbol to not only reference landscape, but geometry and sacred space, as well.”

When entering the gallery, the viewer will see large, colorful, handwoven diptychs on the wall, filled with ancient patterns and coded shapes that emerge from the thread itself as Mary meticulously dyes the yarn prior to weaving so they align to form their own language. These pieces evolve from a “powerful metaphysical triptych: the mountain/triangle/pyramid form,” taking Mary on a journey that is just beginning. She invites us to share those first steps with her.

Special programs, a lecture and reception for this remarkable exhibit are in the planning stages.