

COMMON THREAD INTERNATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre, Towne Square Gallery, b42GALLERY in Oakville, Ontario.
September 18 – October 4, 2009; Jurors Carol Goddu, Dorrie Millerson, and Judith Tinkle

This exhibition which took place in three venues was interesting and perhaps in need of editing. When presented with the largest number of submissions since it began from across Canada, the US and Europe, Common Thread has now gained an international reputation. It was a large exhibition with more than 80 pieces selected from a broad range of textile practices that were not identified by type and material but rather accompanied by artist statements. There were a number of woven pieces in the exhibition that I would like to focus on. Each weaver worked in their own distinctly different way, and by presenting them together the festival emphasized the flexibility and range available within a single genre.

A Phase of Light: Hope 2 by Fuyuko Matsubara, Indiana, Pennsylvania, USA, won the **Best Traditional** award. The method was overshot weaving which showed both warp and weft threads on the surface and made with independently dyed warp and weft. Her incredibly skillful use of precision dyeing gave the piece an airbrushed look.

The winner of **Best of Show** was the much more traditional high warp tapestry woven piece **Honour's Victim**, subdued and bold at the same time, by Ulrikka Mokdad from Copenhagen, Denmark. This and two other woven works were in the Joshua Creek venue: **Métis**, a tapestry by Rasma Noreikyte, from Kaunas, Lithuania, and **The Spirit**, by Kazumi Shinomiya, from Kyoto, Japan.

Métis was a warm portrait of a couple, and like **Honour's Victim** it was a warp face tapestry. Unlike Mokdad's weaving where the image is woven from bottom to top, the image on **Métis** was done from right to left on its side then turned when displayed. Shinomiya's work **The**

Spirit, while weft faced tapestry, was not image based but sculptural with coiled wrapped extensions coming off of a gently monochromatic surface. I must also mention the abstract tapestry **Savanah's Impressions** by Ixchel Suarez, which was at Towne Square Gallery as a work of skill.

Quilting, needlepoint, embroidery, felting, dyeing, printing and painting in numerous mixed combinations along

with many other mixed media wall pieces, wearables and sculptural installations, were brought together in this celebration of fibre and textile arts and crafts. It was exciting, confusing, inspiring and too much to take in throughout the three week run of the World of Threads Festival.

Other award winners were:

Best Contemporary

Patricia Seaton Homonylo of Toronto, Ontario, for **The End is Near**, Petit Point: Silk on silk at 40 stitches per inch. It was a photo realistic image of graffiti on a brick wall.

Honourable Mentions

- Adriana Blaszcyk Zych of Lodz, Poland for **In the Mirror of the Time**, Batik.
- Martha Cole of Lumsdien, Saskatchewan for **Of the Earth**, quilt.
- Betty Cuykx of Sint-Truiden, Belgium for **Exodus**, felt.
- Ann Marie Hadcock of Kitchener, Ontario for **Para Red**, wire, wool and alpaca fibre.
- Valerie Knapp of Toronto, Ontario for **Labyrinth #2**, mixed media - embroidery, vintage handkerchief, 16.5" x 16.5", framed.
- Emma Nishimura of Toronto, Ontario, for **Seeking Solace**, print.
- Mark Reinhart of Chatham, Ontario for **Yarn**, outdoor intervention on the Oakville Museum Grounds. ☞



Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre



Towne Square Gallery



b42GALLERY



Joe Lewis is a textile artist/publisher and writer. A former painter and performance artist he has been working exclusively with textiles since 1997 and concentrating on weaving since 2000. As a Publisher he has been presenting Canadian Textile and Fibre arts since 2005 in fibreQUARTERLY on-line at www.velvethighway.com.

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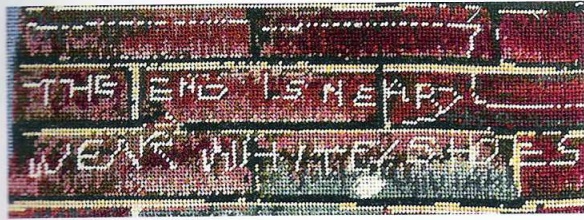


Image: *The End is Near*
 Artist: Patricia Seaton Homonylo, Toronto, Ontario
 Award: Best Contemporary
 Technique: Petit Point
 Material: Silk on silk at 40 stitches per inch

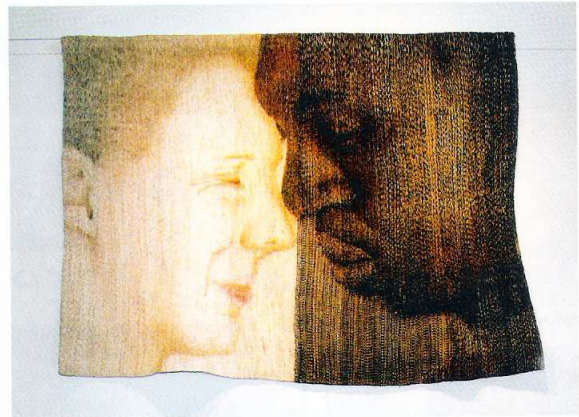


Image: *Métis*, 2008
 Artist: Rasma Noreikyte, Kaunas, Lithuania
 Technique: Weaving
 Size: 155cm x 116cm



Image: *The Spirit*
 Artist: Kazumi Shinomiya, Kyoto, Japan
 Technique: High warp tapestry coiled wrapped extensions coming off the surface
 Material: Warp : cotton weft, linen, wool



Image: *Honour's Victim*
 Artist: Ulrikka Mokdad, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Award: Best of Show
 Technique: High warp tapestry

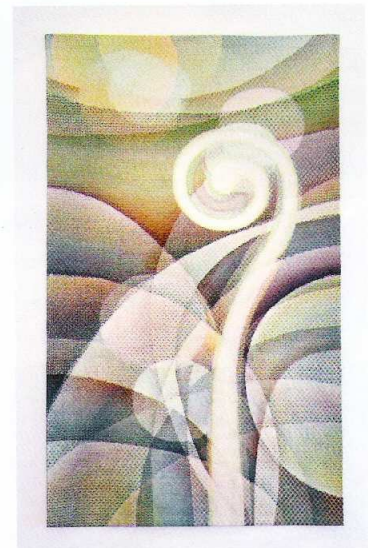


Image: *A Phase of Light: Hope 2*
 Artist: Fuyuko Matsubara, Indiana, Pennsylvania, USA.
 Award: Best Traditional
 Technique: Overshot weaving
 Material: Hand-plied yarn, linen, cotton, silk, rayon
 Size: 33 by 43 inches

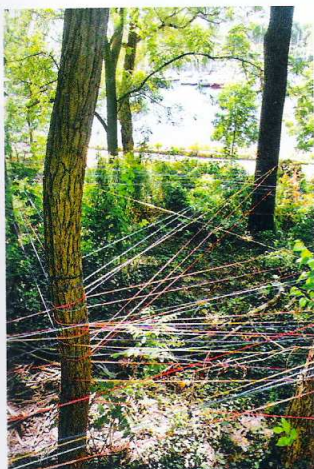


Image: *Yarn*
 Artist: Mark Reinhart



Image: *Savanah's Impressions*
 Artist: Ixchel Suarez, Oakville, Ontario
 Technique: Tapestry