

## RILLA MARSHALL: Profile

ARTIST STATEMENT # 1 (art) My art practice involves the exploration of statistical data concerning population, community and growth. Revolving around the investigation of numeric data representing "truths", I am interested in the interpretation of technologically produced information about the human condition and the re-interpretation of this information through the labour-intensive process of hand-weaving. Currently, this focus on numeric truth concerning the human condition has been aimed at the population statistics of Atlantic Canada. Concentrating on the three Atlantic provinces in which I have lived (PEI, NL, and NS), I create graphs based on elements of population growth, geography, economics and lifestyle, creating relationships between specific statistics collected over time by Statistics Canada. 1. Urban and Rural Populations, PEI, 1851-2001 handwoven using inlay technique; hand dyed; cotton. 22' x 10", 2007

These graphs then become the basis for abstract landscape compositions, landscapes that reference the coastline and the topography of where I live, but are built, not only on my visual observation of the land around me, but on information about the people and the lives that populate that land. Using hand-weaving is a way of re-claiming this information, making it tangible through the process of weaving itself as well as through the narrative nature of cloth and the associations brought about in the viewer concerning community, labour, and experience. 2. Coming and Going: immigration and emigration, PEI, 1961 - 2001 handwoven using inlay technique; hand dyed; cotton. 12" x 10" 2007

3. Populations, PEI, NS, NL, 1851-2001

handwoven using inlay technique; hand dyed wild silk; lichen dyed

hand spun wool; cotton. 28" x 24", 2008 ARTIST STATEMENT #2 (production hand weaving)6. Pile of Scarves, handwoven, wild silk, merino wool, cotton. hand felted, hand dyed. each scarf: 68" x 6", 2007

Since 2006, I have been designing and creating original hand woven scarves for wholesale, consignment and retail sale. Under the business name Marshall Arts Fine Handwoven Textiles, I strive to craft colourful contemporary, elegant scarves. Inspired by the shoreline of Canada's East Coast, my line of Seaweed Scarves echo the undulating ripples in the sand and the gentle ruffles of kelp. Understanding the separate and combined qualities of different natural fibers is very important to my design and creation process. Luxurious, lightweight yet warm, the wild silk and merino wool warp combine to insulate while the cotton weft keeps the scarf breathable. After being delicately crafted on the loom, each scarf is individually hand-felted. The fine merino wool shrinks and felts, while the wild silk and cotton do not, creating a cascade of seer-sucker stripes running the length of the scarf. The scarves are then hand dyed, giving each piece a unique hue. I believe that cloth has the ability to convey metaphor and meaning through colour, pattern and use - this lies at the creative center of my production weaving practice. 7. Green Seaweed Scarf handwoven, wild silk, merino wool, cotton. Hand felted, hand dyed. 68" x 12" 2007 These are the retail shops where Marshall Arts Fine Handwoven Textiles are currently available: -Craft Council of NL Shop, Devon House, St. John's NL -Twisted Sisters Boutik, St. John's, NL -Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Gallery Shop, Halifax, NS -The Showcase, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown, PEI -Northern Watters Knitwear, Charlottetown, PEI 8. Scarf Rack: Marshall Arts Fine Handwoven Textiles, West Coast Craft Fair, November 2007

EXHIBITIONS June 5 - September 23, 2007: Common Threads, curated by Lee Plested. Confederation Centre Art Gallery, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition by invitation of international contemporary artists working with textile craft techniques. Also exhibited at the Illingworth Kerr Gallery, Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Alberta from November 22, 2007 - Jan 5, 2008.

June 19 - October 20, 2007: Celebration of Crafts: Enriching Island Culture. Eptek Art & Culture Centre, Summerside, PEI. Juried exhibition.

June 1 - August 31, 2007: A Heritage Room with New Views: An Exhibition of Island Art and Fine Crafts. Lieutenant Governor House at Fanningbank, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition by invitation.

August 2, 2006: presentation of Mozart's Requiem, 2006. Collaboration with contemporary chamber orchestra Motion Ensemble to create a new woven work and a new musical composition based on Mozart's Requiem. Imperial Theatre, OK, Quoi?! Contemporary Arts Festival, Sackville, NB, July 30 - Aug. 6, 2006.

March 17 - 23, 2007: Out of Purgatory II. Peake Street Artist Collective. Peake Street Studio, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition.

October 9 - 16, 2006: Puzzles. Peake Street Studio Collective. Peake Street Studio, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition.

September 5 - 31, 2006: Social Tessellation. Gallery in the Guild, the Guild, Charlottetown, PEI. Two person exhibition

with painter Damien Worth.

February 11 - 18, 2006: Out of Purgatory I. Peake Street Artist Collective. Peake Street Studio, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition.

October 15 - 29, 2005: The Memory Show. Peake Street Artist Collective. Peake Street Studio, Charlottetown, PEI. Group exhibition.

March 5 - 31, 2004: NSCAD Emerging Artists. Argyle Fine Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Group exhibition.

January 26 - 31, 2004: Time Line Lost Found. Anna Leonowens Gallery, NSCAD University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Solo exhibition.

November 18 - 24, 2002: Accumulation. Anna Leonowens Gallery, NSCAD University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Group exhibition by invitation.