

ART IN FIBER

Marblehead Arts Association
8 Hooper Street
Marblehead, Massachusetts

May 5 through May 27

Fans of fiber art have reason to head to Boston's North Shore this May. Celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, the Marblehead Arts Association presents "Art in Fiber" at their galleries in the restored King Hooper Mansion.



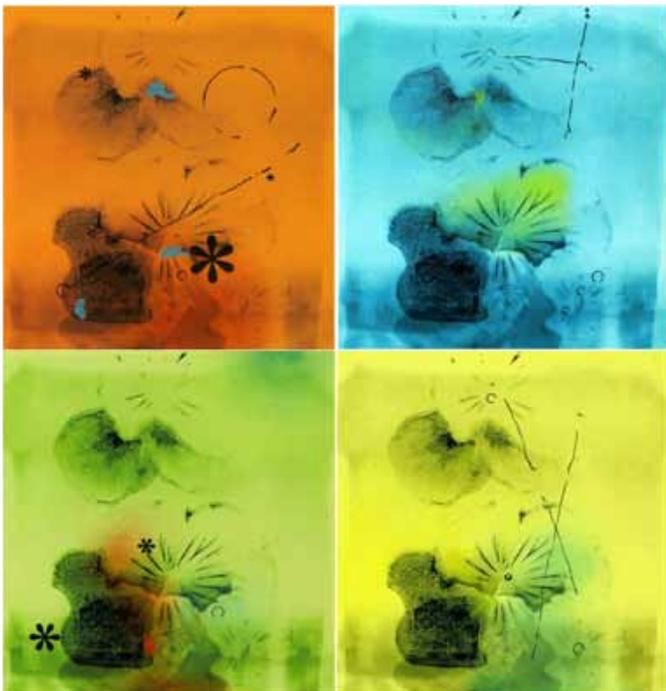
Buddy Pritchett, *Mojave*, digital art, 22" x 17".

a model makeup of a space instrument panel. "I fell in love with space and the landscape of other worlds that attracted my imagination," Pritchett said. "While I called my work 'Mojave,' it could just as easily be a desert in another world.

Pritchett will have a solo show of his work at NAA from August 12-18; it'll feature a cross-section of his work in multi-media, sketches, watercolors, acrylic paintings and sketches.

The Newburyport Art Association is housed in a 1795 brick building featuring three galleries; the adjoining Laura Coombs Hills Gallery, built in the 1890s, features great window lighting. It recently expanded its sales area to its upstairs gallery space, which is constantly restocked through a monthly juried process.

Brian Goslow



Patty deGrandpre, *Flower Power Family of Four*, print, 10" x 10.5".

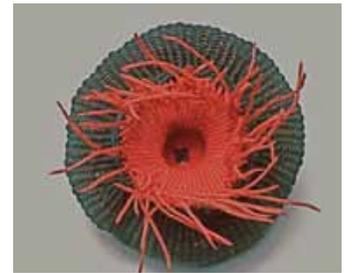
Curated by Sandra Golbert, Deborah Greel and Claudia Kaufman, the exhibit showcases the varied media recognized under the large umbrella of fiber art through an eclectic array of work by both regional and internationally recognized artists.

The ancient utilitarian form of the basket serves as muse for Brooklyn-based artist Charlotte Thorp, who transforms her vessels from steadfastly functional to purely sculptural using twined cords of waxed linen, Japanese paper and leather.

Brilliantly surfaced works in felt and silk by mathematician-cum-fiber-artist Larry Schulte are included, as are optically charged, geometric weavings by Newton, Mass.-based fiber artist Dora Hsuing.

Paper, with its mashed and intertwined fibrous DNA, holds court in book-based art by Carole P. Kunstadt. Her ongoing "Sacred Poem" series de- and reconstructs the 1844 and 1849 editions of the sacred text "Parish Psalmody." Kunstadt fringes, stitches, knots and even gilds papers from the antique paper tomes to make beautiful art objects layered with meaning.

Rhode Island artist Saberah Malik uses a molding technique she identifies



Charlotte Thorp, *Red Well*, hand-spun paper, waxed linen thread, leather cord, 10" x 10" x 6".

as "enhanced oboshi" to transform flat bolts of polyester fabric into freestanding, recognizable shapes of bottles and rocks arranged into larger installations.

Whether stitched, twined, woven, embroidered, knotted or felted, dyed to suit or au-natural, man-made and naturally occurring fibers lend themselves beautifully to the obsessive habits of artists. An explosion of groundbreaking work and outspoken craftspeople in the 1970s made a case for textile-based arts to rise above the status of mere "women's work." While Schulte is, admittedly, the show's token male artist, "Art in Fiber" makes good on their cause, showing off a satisfyingly broad range of fiber expression.

Meredith Cutler