



P. Greenlee's beautiful shawl on display at our exhibit at Casa, Fall 2019

## FEATURE PROGRAM Japanese Notan

**Details:** Wednesday, March 11, 2019, Casa Textile Studio, 7-9 pm

**Notan** is a **Japanese** word meaning the balance between dark and light. It is also an art form involving papercutting and positive and negative shapes. The **Japanese** artists begin with black and white paper and cut out shapes and lines to create a unique design. The concepts can also be used in fabric and other surface designs.

## Theme for 2019/2020: *Re-making*

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## Library Update

### New in the Library

*The Best of Both Worlds* – Dunnewold  
*Fusing Fabric: Creating Cutting, Bending and Markmaking*  
– Beal  
*Felt and Fibre Art* - Hughes  
*Art in Felt and Stitch* – Moy Mackay  
*Digital Fibre Art* – Wen Redmond  
*Design and Print Your Own Fabric*  
*Inspiration Kantha* – Hergert

**Feel free to take these books out of our library and use some of the inspiration on your next project!**

### Helen Schuler Exhibit: Mingling with Nature

We have an exhibit coming up from June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Helen Schuler Nature Center, please reflect on the theme for new creations this year and consider submitting in newly finished projects for the exhibit. We are excited to show our felted landscapes from the 2019 fall workshop with Esther Neufeld.

### Other Community Events

Galt Museum – Needle Felted Hearts – Thursday,  
February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7 – 9 pm  
U of L Art Gallery – Culture Vulture – Freeform Painting  
February 29, 11am – 4pm



Felted Landscape Projects



### Show and Share

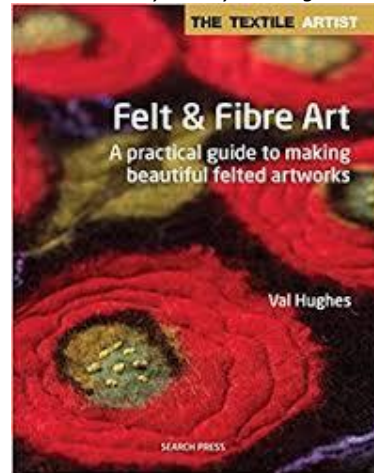
Members are encouraged to bring some work to each meeting and program, whether it is a completed piece or in the progress of discovery

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently looking for volunteers to lead upcoming programs and to join one of the committees.

Felt and Fibre Art: A practical guide to making beautiful felted artworks by Val Hughes

Book Review by Tracey Bolseng



Val Hughes is a textile artist that uses wet and nuno felting, mixed media and free motion machine embroidery to create felted art pieces. The first three chapters are a good discussion of:

1. Materials: types of wool fibres; knitting wool and yarns; other fibres like soybean, bamboo and silk; handmade papers; fabrics and embellishments.
2. Techniques and tools: soap, rolling mats, spray bottle, etc. There are good written and visual instructions for wet and nuno felting techniques.
3. Inspiration: What are your sources of inspiration and influence? How can you translate these ideas into the practice of felting? Val's key guides are Observe, Make notes, Sketch and TRUST your creative self.

Pages 42 to 143 are five projects called "The Collections". The projects' steps are numbered, with good written instructions and picture demonstrations. Wearable art is featured in three of the projects.

Summary: Felt and Fibre Art by Val Hughes is a good reference book for those interested learning and creating in the wet felting process.

## Introduction to our 2020 Theme : Re-Making



In late December, I watched a four-part series on Acorn TV called “Victorian House of Arts and Crafts”, described as a “living history” series. Six, 21<sup>st</sup> century, crafters move into a commune in Wales that recreates life during the late 1800s Arts and Crafts movement. They are given specific challenges to renovate four rooms during their four-week stay, one room per week, using original Victorian tools and techniques and no present-day technology. They wear clothes, eat, sleep and work as did the 19<sup>th</sup> century artisans. The challenges they are given do not necessarily match their areas of expertise. Used to working alone, they find they must cooperate with and assist each other to complete their tasks.

The Arts and Crafts Movement was covered in some detail, along with its two most influential figures, John Ruskin and William Morris. It grew out of a concern for the effects of industrialization and established new principles for living and working and was in reaction to some of the most negative impacts of the Industrial Revolution: poor quality of mass-produced items, devaluing of hand and home crafted products, the poor working conditions in factories, and the inability of crafters to earn a living income.

It was a political and social movement based on ideals which placed value on the quality of materials and design, as well as the quality of life. Ruskin examined the relationship between art, society and labor. Morris followed Ruskin’s principles but also encouraged his followers to bring joy to their work, share knowledge and bring beauty to all. The movement emphasized the creation of beautiful but functional products in furniture, cabinet making, architecture, home décor, crafts and even garden design. Morris was a conservationist and promoted nature themes and simplicity in design. The British movement discouraged the use of machinery in production. In North America, the integration of machinery was welcomed, while still advocating individual craftsmanship.

The overlap between the Arts and Crafts movement of 1880 – 1920 and the current Maker Movement seems obvious to me. The Maker Movement, initiated in 2006 by Dale Dougherty, brings together people who designed and made things at home from things they already had, with the help of new digital tools and knowledge shared on the internet. While it had its origins in the technological sector, it has now spread to all areas of production and embraces and informs today’s DIY movement as well as the integration of digital tools into art and invention. Wikipedia states the Maker Movement is a social movement with an artisan spirit which emphasizes learning-by-doing in a social environment. Products from many maker communities focus on health, sustainable development, environmentalism and local culture, and are a response, in part, to globalized mass production, chain stores and disposables.

So, why does any of this matter? **In 2020, we are calling ourselves “Makers” and our theme is “Upcycling”** or, if you prefer, a term suggested by Carol, **“Re-making”**. What is the difference between upcycling and recycling? Recycling most often involves reducing objects to their component parts or basic forms, using resources and energy to make a completely different product, often of lower quality. Upcycling (or re-making) originates a new product by creatively reusing, all or in part, an object as it is. The resulting product involves re-imagining existing products and materials and converting them into something new, often with a higher intrinsic value and greater beauty, all while retaining the identity of the original object. (Think Carol’s wonderful journal covers created by cutting up a quilt, or Pat’s wonderful “tie” vest.) **So, in 2020, bring joy to your work, make or “re-make” with what you already have, share your knowledge and the beauty you create, and teach and learn in a community of TSDG Makers. Here’s to a fabulous, creative 2020!**

# Programs

Programs take place at the Textile Studio, Second Floor at CASA unless otherwise noted. Check our website for updates at: [surfacedesignlethbridge.ca](http://surfacedesignlethbridge.ca)

Please register by emailing Karen at [karenphilly27@gmail.com](mailto:karenphilly27@gmail.com)

## JANUARY

8

Wednesday  
7- 9 pm  
Textile Studio, Casa  
Paint Pounding with Carol

15

Wednesday  
1 pm, Casa  
Executive Meeting

19

Sunday  
Open Studio,  
10 am – 6 pm  
Textile Studio, Casa

26

Saturday  
1 – 4pm  
Textile Studio, Casa  
General Business Meeting  
Mingling with the Makers  
Miss Edith Fanny Kirk  
Presentation

## FEBRUARY

12

Wednesday  
7- 9 pm  
Textile Studio, Casa  
Mingling with Makers

16

Sunday  
Open Studio  
Textile Studio, Casa

22

Saturday  
1 – 4pm  
Doll Making with Alvina  
Wall

## MARCH

11

Wednesday  
7 – 9 pm  
Textile Studio, Casa  
Japanese Notan with  
Tracey Bolseng

15

Sunday  
Open Studio  
Textile Studio, Casa

21

Saturday  
1 – 4pm  
Textile Studio, Casa  
Mingling with Makers  
Emily Carr and Laura  
Vickerson presentations

Supported in part  
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the



Check these links for  
additional programs of interest  
to TSDG members

<http://galtmuseum.com/programs.htm>  
<http://www.casalethbridge.ca/classes-overview>

[surfacedesignlethbridge.ca](http://surfacedesignlethbridge.ca)