



NEWS

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Fiber Art Without Boundaries: *Spaces Between* Opens at Florida CraftArt

St. Petersburg, FL – Florida CraftArt proudly presents *Spaces Between*, an international exhibition in collaboration with the Surface Design Association (SDA). Featuring artists from as far as France and New Zealand, the exhibition highlights the expansive possibilities of surface design. Juror Akiko Kotani, whose textile works are included in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other esteemed collections, has carefully selected pieces that push the boundaries of fiber-based art. The exhibition will be on view in Florida CraftArt's Exhibition Gallery from **March 28 through May 17, 2025**.

Surface design plays an integral role in our daily lives, shaping the patterns on clothing, the textures of wallpaper, and the intricate details of upholstery. More than decoration, the artists in this exhibition transform materials into powerful expressions of design. Since its founding in 1977, the Surface Design Association has provided a global platform for artists working with fiber, embracing both traditional techniques—such as weaving and dyeing—and contemporary innovations in digital textiles and mixed media.

At its core, *Spaces Between* explores the concept of liminality, the state of transition between identities, environments, and artistic disciplines. The exhibition presents works that navigate the tensions between structure and openness, density and transparency, past and present. Through woven transparencies, layered embroideries, and experimental materials, the 27 selected artists reveal the fluidity of meaning and the richness of in-between spaces.

Whispers from the Past Trilogy, is a striking triptych of translucent weavings by Rebecca Smith. Evoking the traditional patterns of the Indigenous peoples of what is now the Southwestern United States, the weaving's motifs are rendered with such delicate transparency that the fabric becomes a lens, revealing both its intricate design and the space beyond its surface. Smith

describes her process as “listening to the threads, letting them tell me the story of what they want to be. The softer the vision, the better I feel I have met my intention.”

Ayelet Lindenstrauss Larsen’s *Ordered Chaos (Midday)* captures the sensation of moving through layered spaces. Larsen was inspired by *Big Bambú*, a vast bamboo installation by Doug and Mike Starn, temporarily constructed on the rooftop of The Met in 2010. Her intricate embroideries first appear to the viewer as an abstract linear composition but gradually reveal an illusion of depth and structure. Reflecting on the installation’s interplay of order and disorder, Larsen notes, “The construction was very open, and between nearby poles one could see layers upon layers of further poles making the effect beautifully chaotic.”

Susan Lenz’s *Cemetery Flags* is a thought-provoking composition created from layered U.S. flags salvaged from cemetery trash bins and stitched onto a discarded casket flag. With its striking graphic patterns and dynamic stitching, the piece amplifies the flag’s inherent symbolism, evoking history, loss, and reflection. “It speaks to the space between life and death, calm and crisis, the political divide in this country, and the hope of finding the elusive space between seemingly opposite ends of the spectrum,” Lenz explains.

Beyond the main exhibition, Florida CraftArt will present a pop-up shop featuring work from members of the Tampa Bay Surface Design Guild. Transforming the Florida Artists Gallery into an immersive experience, the Guild’s artists will install dramatic, hand-patterned textiles that encase the gallery’s towering 14-foot columns.

A rare opportunity to experience the power of contemporary fiber art, *Spaces Between* celebrates storytelling, innovation, and cultural reflection through surface design. Florida CraftArt invites the community to step into these in-between spaces and discover the ideas found within.

Spaces Between is sponsored by Mark Anderson and Keith Bucklew.

Exhibition Dates: March 28 through May 17, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 12, 2025, 6-8pm, during [Second Saturday ArtWalk](#)

Related Programming: A virtual Textile Talk with juror Akiko Kotani and award-winning artists participating in *Spaces Between* will take place on April 20, 2025 at 2:00 PM ET, with registration opening in late March. See FloridaCraftArt.org for more information.

About Florida CraftArt:

Florida CraftArt is located at 501 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more

information, visit www.FloridaCraftArt.org or call **(727) 821-7391**. Florida CraftArt is a member supported nonprofit organization founded in 1951 and headquartered in the former Rutland's Department Store, built in 1916 in downtown St. Petersburg. Its mission is to grow the statewide creative economy by engaging the community and advancing Florida's fine craft artists and their work. Fine craft art is presented in its 2,500-square-foot Florida Artists' Gallery, and curated exhibitions are featured in its adjacent Exhibition Gallery. Florida CraftArt is the *only* statewide organization offering artists a platform to show and sell their work.

CUTLINES

1. **Smith.jpg, Photo by Rebecca Smith**

Whispers from the Past Trilogy: Rebecca Smith's weavings explore transparency, revealing what lies beyond intricate patterns.

2. **Lindenstrauss Larsen.jpg, Photo by Ayelet Lindenstrauss Larsen**

Ayelet Lindenstrauss Larsen's *Ordered Chaos (Midday)* captures the sensation of moving through layered spaces.

3. **Lenz.jpg, Photo by Susan Lenz**

Susan Lenz's *Cemetery Flags* employs found objects to reveal human emotions, exploring loss, longing, and the potential for hope.

4. **Lenz Cemetery Flags detail.jpg, Photo by Susan Lenz**