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PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

A lifelong interest in textile and fiber arts has found a natural outlet for growth and experimentation on the Key Peninsula of Washington's Puget Sound. Nestled on twenty acres of forest and pasture land, not far as the crow flies, from my childhood home on Fox Island, my husband John and I have developed a thriving herd of fifty-four alpacas. My study of fiber fabrication techniques has expanded to encompass all phases of fiber production from the shearing of the animals, to the preparation and processing of the fiber, color blending, and creation of final felted products, has grown into a small business. I now market a line of alpaca felted fabric, hats and sculptures. I offer workshops in felting and related techniques and have developed a line of fiber art kits which make it easy for beginners to get started with needle felting.

WORKSHOP TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Flat Needle Felting

This workshop utilizes a single, barbed needle to attach raw fibers, in a variety of colors to a backing fabric. The techniques create surface design and texture, and allows for exquisite detail in the finished piece.

2005 - Present	Tacoma Community College <i>Personal Enrichment Instructor</i>	Tacoma, WA
March, 2005	Fiber Arts Center of the Northwest <i>Community Extension Instructor</i>	Olympia, WA
May, 2004	Alpaca Marketplace <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Eugene, OR
Feb, 2004	Alpaca Owners & Breeders Winter Conf. <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Reno, NV
2004-2005	Private Classes <i>Instructor</i>	Longbranch, WA

Sculptural Needle Felting

This workshop utilizes a single, barbed needle to build up raw fiber into a three-dimensional figure. Techniques include making facial features and developing a "personality" for the finished piece.

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May, 2004	Alpaca Marketplace <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Eugene, OR

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Traditional Wet Felting

This workshop explores the traditional techniques of felting, using raw fiber, soap, water and elbow grease. Techniques can be used to make flat pieces or dimensional felt for hats, bags or other vessels.

2005-Present	Tacoma Community College <i>Personal Enrichment Instructor</i>	Tacoma, WA
April, 2005	Heart of the Valley Alpaca Show <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Albany, OR
May, 2004	Alpaca Marketplace <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Eugene, OR
2004-2005	Private Classes <i>Instructor</i>	Longbranch, WA

Fiber Dying

In this workshop metal based, acid dyes are used to color protein fibers such as alpaca, wool or silk. Vat dying and microwave dying techniques are discussed, while microwave dying is the process demonstrated.

April, 2005	AlpacaPalooza Show <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Puyallup, WA
April, 2005	Heart of the Valley Alpaca Show <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Albany, OR
2004-2005	Private Classes <i>Instructor</i>	Longbranch, WA

Fiber Preparation and Processing

This workshop is designed to help alpaca breeders understand the characteristics of the fiber they are raising and how to prepare the fleece for competition. Techniques for processing fleece to a marketable product and processing options are also demonstrated.

April, 2005	Heart of the Valley Alpaca Show <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Albany, OR
April, 2004	AlpacaPalooza Show <i>Workshop Instructor</i>	Puyallup, WA
2004-2005	Private Classes <i>Instructor</i>	Longbranch, WA

AWARDS

Needle Felted Mermaid Doll

2005 *First Place*, AlpacaPalooza, Puyallup, WA

Needle Felted Dragon Fly Pillow

2004 *First Place*, Fiber to Fashion, Reno, NV; *Judges Choice*, Fiber to Fashion, Reno, NV; *First Place*, Western Washington Fair, Puyallup, WA; *Best in Category*, Western Washington Fair, Puyallup, WA

Needle Felted Bathing Beauty Doll

2004 *First Place*, Fiber to Fashion, Reno, NV

Needle Felted Alpaca Doll

2004 *First Place*, AlpacaPalooza, Monroe, WA

Needle Felted Doll with Treehouse

2003 *First Place*, AlpacaPalooza, Monroe, WA; *Most Creative*, AlpacaPalooza, Monroe, WA; *First Place*, Alpaca Western Extravaganza, Redmond, OR; *Second Place*, Western Washington Fair, Puyallup, WA

Traditional Wet Felted Hat

2003 *First Place*, AlpacaPalooza, Monroe, WA; *Grand Champion*, AlpacaPalooza, Monroe, WA; *First Place*, Alpaca Western Extravaganza, Redmond, OR; *First Place*, Western Washington Fair, Puyallup

MEMBERSHIP

2001-Present	Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association
2001-Present	Alpaca Association of Western Washington
2002-2005	Secretary, Board of Directors for AAWW
2004-Present	Fiber Arts Center of the Northwest

TOOLS/TECHNIQUES

Fiber carding using a 4 drum custom designed Patrick Green Elsacard

Fiber picking using a Patrick Green Triple Picker

Production felted fabric using a 45 inch Celtic Moon Felting Machine

Fiber cleaning using a Fulton Fiber Tumbler

Shearing using a Premier 3000 hand piece and camelid combs and cutter

Sewing with a Bernette 740E sewing machine and a Juki MO-634DE serger

Hand and machine knitting using a Brother 940 w/ribber

Weaving using a Schacht 4 harness table loom

Spinning fiber using a Majacraft Rose Wheel