



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2026

## **Textile Center announces Minnesota Handwork, a series of six exhibitions throughout 2026 that celebrate our state's expansive fiber art scene**

Handwork Minnesota is also part of Craft in America's [\*Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026\*](#), "a nationwide Semiquincentennial initiative to showcase the importance of the handmade both throughout our history and in contemporary life."



(Minneapolis, MN) – Textile Center is proud to present *Minnesota Handwork*, a year-long series of six exhibitions and related activities celebrating the richness and diversity in our state's fiber arts community.

Exhibitions (listed below) will include curated, juried, and open call opportunities — to honor both the traditional and contemporary aspects of fiber and textile arts in Minnesota. These exhibits will feature Minnesota Native artists and practitioners, contemporary arts practitioners from emerging to accomplished, the LGBTQ+ community, and guild and community artists. A public series of artist discussions will offer insights into the artists and their work throughout the year.

*Minnesota Handwork* is also part of Craft in America's [\*Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026\*](#), "a nationwide Semiquincentennial initiative to showcase the importance of the handmade both throughout our history and in contemporary life." We're also pleased to announce that Minnesota Handwork is being funded, in part, by a 2026 Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Experiences grant, made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Textile Center's exhibitions are free and open to the public. Special events, including Art Speaks panel discussions and trunk shows, in conjunction with following exhibitions will be announced soon.

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**On view now at Textile Center:**



**2025 McKnight Fiber Artist Fellowship Exhibitions (through April 4, 2026)**

Joan Mondale Gallery + Mary Giles Gallery, Textile Center

Artist Reception and *Art Speaks*, Thursday, March 19, 5 – 7 pm

Textile Center is kicking off the year celebrating Minnesota artists with the [2025 McKnight Fiber Artist Fellowship Exhibition: \*Alchemy, Shannon Lucas Westrum, and Holding, Patterns, Christine Novotny\*](#). The exhibit runs through April 4, 2026, in our Joan Mondale Gallery and Mary Giles Gallery and features new work by the 2025 fellowship recipients Christine Novotny of Grand Marais, a weaver and dyer, and Shannon Lucas Westrum of Bemidji, a basketry and mixed media artist.

(Pictured: *Coalescence* by Shannon Lucas Westrum; *I Know, Baby (For Yves)*, Christine Novotny



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***Handwork: Unbound* (through April 4, 2026)**

Community Gallery, Textile Center

Artist Reception and *Art Speaks*, Thursday, March 19, 5 – 7 pm

[\*Handwork: Unbound\*](#), curated in partnership with CHOICE, Inc., Interact Center, and Fresh Eye Arts, showcases fiber artists with disability identities who challenge artistic conventions through non-traditional learning modalities. The fiber art works selected are profoundly innovative and meaningful as visual autobiographies through their chosen materials, techniques, and imagery.

(Pictured: *Pavlova* by HML, *Untitled II* by Kelly Pals, *Easter Bunny* by Kurtis Schmautz)

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## More Minnesota Handwork Exhibitions:

### *Handwork: Mni Sóta* (April 14, through July 11, 2026)

Joan Mondale Gallery + Community Gallery, Textile Center

Artist reception Thursday, June 4, 5:30 – 7 pm

*Handwork: Mni Sóta- Traditions & Innovations* showcases MN's Indigenous textile history while highlighting works that recognize, promote, and celebrate the work of distinguished Native artists in Minnesota with long standing engagement and commitment to textile-based practices. These accomplished artists are constantly evolving traditional practices with contemporary innovations. Delina White (Leech Lake Ojibwe), McKnight and Jerome Hill Fellow, serves as advisor and curator.

(Pictured: *Odanisaan' Toddler Dance Set*, detail, by Lavender Kingbird)



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### *Handwork: TWO-SPIRIT STORIES* (April 14, through July 11, 2026)

Mary Giles Gallery, Textile Center

Artist reception Thursday, June 4, 5:30 – 7 pm

*Handwork: TWO-SPIRIT STORIES* showcases the work of Minnesota's emerging Two-Spirit Native artists. In a celebration of traditional and contemporary handwork, these artists are affirming Indigenous and queer identity using themes of ceremony, community, and ancestral tradition. Penny Kagigebi (White Earth Ojibwe), First Peoples Fund Fellow, serves as advisor and curator for *TWO-SPIRIT STORIES*.

(Pictured: *Flower Dreams* by Alicia de la Cruz)



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### *Handwork: A Common Thread* (July 28, through October 10, 2026)

Joan Mondale Gallery, Mary Giles Gallery, and Community Gallery, Textile Center

Artist reception Thursday, August 6, 5:30 – 7 pm

Call for entries will be online and open April 15 – June 1, 2026.

*Handwork: A Common Thread* celebrates the history, breadth, and depth of fiber art practices of Textile Center's members and guilds. The only exhibit of its kind in the nation — non-juried and open call until capacity is reached — *A Common Thread* supports our mission to inspire widespread participation in fiber art and to grow awareness of the central role of fiber arts in community building.



Selections from *Handwork: A Common Thread* will be presented in Greater Minnesota at the Lanesboro Art Center from October 24 to December 20, 2026, and the Battle Lake Arts Center in January and February 2027.

(Pictured: *Coltrane* by Jacques Elate Joss, from *A Common Thread* 2024)

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*Handwork: Embodied Material* (October 20, 2026, through January 7, 2027)

Mary Giles Gallery + Community Gallery, Textile Center

Artist reception Thursday, November 5, 5:30 – 7 pm

*Handwork: Embodied Material* centers Minnesota's LGBTQIA+ artists in collaboration with Embodied Material, a collective of queer textile artists who engage in study and critical thinking about artwork and identity through textile practices. Minnesota artist Shug Munic, founder of Embodied Material, serves as curator for the exhibit.

(Pictured: *Please Don't Wear Your Inside Clothes Under the Covers* by Shug Munic)



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## **Textile Center – A National Center for Fiber Art**

Textile Center is unique as a national center for fiber art, with a mission to honor textile traditions, promote excellence and innovation, nurture appreciation, and inspire widespread participation in fiber arts. The Center's resources include exceptional fiber art exhibitions, an artisan shop, a secondhand supplies shop, the region's only accessible professional-grade dye lab, a natural dye plant garden, and one of the nation's largest circulating textile libraries open to the public. Textile Center produces more than 200 classes a year for all ages and skill levels through its youth, adult, and outreach programs. A dynamic hub of fiber activity for more than 30 years, Textile Center brings people together in community to learn, create, share, and be inspired by fiber art. For more information, visit: [textilecentermn.org](http://textilecentermn.org).

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