



PRESS RELEASE

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Textile Center announces 2026 Guest Teaching Artists

World-renowned textile artists will share their creative practices with the Twin Cities community through multi-day artist workshops at Textile Center



(From left: Work by Lynette Youson, Abdul Jabbar Khatri, and Jody Alexander)

(Minneapolis, MN – February 10, 2026) – From *Resist Dyeing with Natural Pigments* and *Telling Stories with Collage* to *Improvisational Quilting* and *Sweetgrass Creations*, Textile Center is pleased to announce its robust lineup of multi-day Guest Teaching Artist workshops, bringing highly regarded artist educators in the field of textiles and fiber to the Twin Cities in 2026.

Spanning cities across the United States and internationally — from Bhuj, Gujarat, India, to the East Coast to the West — these artists bring their unique skills and textile traditions to Textile Center to share with fiber artists and creatives of all levels.

These workshops invite participants to join a cohort and a supportive and rigorous learning environment to dive deep into learning new fiber art skills or growing existing ones. Participants make connections with kindred textile enthusiasts and build community through education and creativity.

Sewers and quilters are invited to learn heirloom sewing techniques and contemporary applications and explore storytelling through improvisational quilting and collage. Weavers, dyers, and surface designers are encouraged to experiment with basket-woven forms and to embrace the world of natural pigments using different binding techniques and fibers.

Workshops take place on site at Textile Center, located in the Prospect Park neighborhood at 3000 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414, in a variety of classrooms and the dye lab.

Tuition for each Guest Teaching Artist workshop varies depending on the workshop. A limited number of scholarships are available to help make these workshops accessible to a broad audience of participants.

To learn more about the Guest Teaching Artist program and to register for a workshop, visit textilecentermn.org/guest-teaching-artists.



(From left: Work by and Martha Moore Porter, Lesley Darling, and Leisa Rich)

2026 Guest Teaching Artist Lineup:



Martha Moore Porter

Porter (she/her) will lead a 3-day workshop, *Past Forward: Heirloom Sewing Techniques for Contemporary Clothing*, April 9 – 11, 2026. She will share how to create tucks, lace insertions, and handmade trims, and how to apply them to wearable contemporary garments. Students will begin with swatch-making and material exploration and move into learning how to apply these techniques to any commercial pattern. They will leave class with swatches, fresh ideas, and a completed (or nearly completed) garment.



Ed Johnetta Miller

Ed Johnetta Miller (she/her) returns to Textile Center again this year to teach another offering of *Improvisational Quilting*, June 5 - 7, 2026. Miller will share her unique approach to quilting that encourages creative expression and new possibilities for improvisational piecing. Students will explore strategies for surface design using a variety of fabrics, and consider how color, texture, and pattern can work together to create personal, visual narratives through the art of quilting.



Lynette Youson

Youson (she/her) is a fifth-generation basket weaver leading a 5-day weaving workshop, *Sweetgrass Creations, June 9 – 13, 2026*. She will share the coiling technique of sweetgrass basket weaving from its origins in Sierra Leone, West Africa using the materials of the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Youson will guide participants through the creation of a basket using Bull Rush, Pine Needles, Sweetgrass, and Palmetto palm.



Abdul Jabbar Khatri

Friend of Textile Center for several years, we are excited to welcome back Abdul Jabbar Khatri (he/him) of SIDR Craft for a 2-day dyeing workshop, *Resist Dyeing with Natural Pigments, July 24 + 25, 2026*. Students will explore the art of Indian tie-and-dye (*bandhani*) from one of the most renowned artists of the tradition, which has evolved in the region of Kutch in Gujarat, India. Participants will learn the characteristic pinch and tie technique of bandhani and how to create the iconic dot pattern and texture that makes bandhani so beautiful.



Jody Alexander

Alexander (she/her) joins us for a 3-day workshop, *Stitch, Print, Piece: Telling Stories with Collage, August 14 – 16, 2026*, where she'll share how stitching can serve as both a form of collage and a strategy for visual storytelling. Students will use photographs, book pages, found papers, and fabric to shape their narratives, while exploring how embroidery and mending techniques can function as both structure and embellishment. Alexander will also share simple bookmaking structures that work well with fabric, along with ways to transform collages into wall pieces, books, or a series of small works.



Leisa Rich

Rich (she/her) joins us for a special 5-day workshop, *Transforming Fosshape: 2D & 3D Applications, October 20 – 24, 2026*, sharing how transform the revolutionary material of Fosshape using a variety of tools and methods. Students will use industrial steaming, heat press embossing, heat gun distressing, small appliance applications, and boiling to turn this soft "fabric" rigid. Rich will also share how allied fiber art methods such as knitting, crochet, plaiting, sewing, weaving, and hand stitching can manipulate Fosshape into various sculptural forms that are dimensional and textural.



Lesley Darling

Wrapping up our 2026 year for Guest Teaching Artists, Lesley Darling (she/her) visits Textile Center for a 4-day dyeing workshop, *Thinking Through Color: Natural Dyes on Wool, November 5 – 8, 2026*. Students will experience the infinite world of natural dyes and color theory in this process-based, exploratory workshop, expanding how color is used in any media they practice. Darling will share foundations of optical blending, and how to apply these concepts to natural pigment dyeing on protein-based fibers. Perfect for spinners, felters, weavers, and creatives of all kinds.

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.

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