

Barbara Lee Smith

Education

Northern Illinois University, MFA Mixed Media 1979

Douglass College, Rutgers University, BS 1959

Further study:

Governor's State University, IL 1976

College of DuPage, IL 1974-76

Smithsonian Institution 1973

Awards, Honors and Positions Held

University Fellow, Northern Illinois University 1977-78

Honorary Member, The Embroiderers' Guild, London, UK

Honorary Member, DuPage Textile Art Guild

Residencies

The Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL 2000, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1994

Named Distinguished Resident, The Ragdale Foundation 2002-present

Brisons Veor, St. Just, Cornwall, UK 2004

Senior Resident: Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland 1996

Commencement Speaker, Oregon College of Art and Craft 2002

Archives of American Artists, Smithsonian Institution 2009

Margaret K. Williams Arts Career Award, Pierce County, WA Arts Commission 2009

Board of Trustees, Bellevue Arts Museum 2012-2015

Museum And University Collections

Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Indianapolis, IN Museum of Art

Racine, WI Art Museum

Tacoma, WA Art Museum

American Embassy, Lima, Peru (Art in Embassies)

American Embassy, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Art in Embassies)

Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN

Embroiderers' Guild Museum, Manchester, England

Gregg Museum, NC State University, Raleigh

Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Moraine Valley Community College, IL
Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Business
Tacoma Art Museum WA
Tacoma Community College, WA
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina, Asheville

Public Collections

Abbott Laboratories, N. Chicago, IL
Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL
American Express, Chicago
American Investors Life Insurance
American Medical Association, Chicago
American National Bank
Aquilacorp, Kansas City
Baker, Knapp and Tubbs, Chicago
Beatrice Foods Inc.
Borg-Warner Corporation
Citicorp, New York City and Brussels, Belgium
Chicago Board of Education
Controller of the Currency, Chicago
Dow Chemical Co.
Duff and Phelps, Chicago
Enterprise Savings and Loan
Evanston Hospital, IL
Gildorn Savings and Loan, Chicago
Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup WA
Itabashi Housing Loan Bank, Tokyo
Lakeside Bank, Chicago
Lincoln Marriott, Dallas, TX
Mayo Clinic
Madeira UK Ltd., Thirsk, England
Marshall Fields, Chicago
MacNeal Memorial Hospital, Berwyn IL
Mercy Hospital, Chicago

Solo Exhibitions

2017 Minneapolis, Textile Arts Center (May, June)
2016 Vashon Island (WA) Allied Arts (October)
2016 Tacoma Community College (Jan-Feb)
2014 Gravers Lane Gallery, Philadelphia

2014 Intersections: Recent Work Visions Art Museum, San Diego
2011 Pull of the Moon, Gregg Museum, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
2010 Jane Sauer Gallery, Santa Fe
2009 Snyderman/Works Gallery, Philadelphia
2008 Jane Sauer Gallery, Santa Fe
2006 Tacoma Community College
2006 Knitting and Stitching Shows (Birmingham, London, Dublin, Harrogate UK)
2005 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
2002 Thirteen Moons Gallery, Santa Fe
Orie Gallery, Tokyo 1996, 2000
The Source Fine Art, Kansas City 1997
Ginza-Eye Gallery, Tokyo 1994
Peden Gallery II, Raleigh, NC 1994
Ariel Gallery, Naperville, IL 1985
Kretzman Gallery, Concordia University, River Forest, IL 1983
Art in Fiber Gallery, Washington, DC 1982
Crescent City Guild Gallery, New Orleans 1979
Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI 1979
Hays Art Center, Hays KS 1978
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 1978
Public Museum, Kenosha, WI 1977
All of the Above Gallery, Chicago 1976
Chicago Public Library 1975
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL 1975

Two Person Exhibitions

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts 2022
The Source Fine Arts, Kansas City 2000
SouthWest Craft Center, San Antonio 1997
The Farrell Collection, Washington DC 1993
Interwoven Designs Gallery, St. Louis 1989
Textile Arts Center, Chicago 1987
Craft Alliance Gallery, St. Louis 1978

Three Person Exhibitions

Insights, Barbican Centre, London and Shipley Art Gallery,
Gateshead, England 1999
Fiber Invitational, Baylor University, Waco, TX 1996
Three Fiber Artists, Lee Gallery, Washington DC 1986

New Artists, New Approaches, Gayle Willson Gallery,
Southampton, NY 1985

Invitational Group Exhibitions

From the permanent collection: Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian
Flight Patterns, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, 2014-2015 and
Georgia State University, 2015
Bellevue Arts Museum, Fiber Biennial 2012
Korea Quilt Festival, Seoul 2012
Sense of Place, Philadelphia Art Alliance 2012
Mighty Tacoma, Tacoma Art Museum 2010-11
Reflections on Water, Nash Gallery, U. of Minn. 2011
Beijing Art Salon, China, represented by Jane Sauer Gallery
2006 Bellevue Arts Museum , On Mapping
Fiber Biennale, Snyderman Gallery, Philadelphia 2006, 2008
Material Difference: Soft Sculpture and Wall Works, Chicago Cultural Center 2006
Baskets: Beyond Structure, Jane Sauer Thirteen Moons Gallery Santa Fe
50th Anniversary Exhibition, Northwest Designer Craftsmen,
Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA; Contemporary Craft
Museum, Portland; Bellevue Arts Museum (traveling 2004-6) (catalog)
Recent Acquisitions, Indianapolis Museum of Art 2000
9th Triennial of Tapestry, Lodz, Poland 1998 (catalog)
Embroidery Now, Denver Art Museum 1977
Art Embroidery: A wide focus on new territories, (traveling 2004-05,
England and France) (catalog)
20th Anniversary Exhibition, Virginia Breier Gallery, San Francisco 2004
Crossing Borders, Highland Park, IL Arts Center 2004
Prism, Mall Galleries, Trafalgar Square, London 2004
Natural Elements: Sculptural Expressions, Zoellner Arts Center,
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 2003 (catalog)
Survey Fiber, Snyderman-Works Galleries, Philadelphia 2002 (CD catalog)
Pertaining to Line, Snyderman-Works Galleries, Philadelphia 2000 (catalog)
Embroidery 2000, Gallery Materia, Scottsdale, AZ 2000
Faculty Exhibition, Joshibi College of Art and Design, Tokyo 2000 (catalog)
Surface-Strength-Structure, Snyderman-Works Galleries,
Philadelphia PA 1999 (catalog)
SOFA NY and SOFA Chicago, 1996-2008 (catalogs)
Art PalmBeach3, represented by Jane Sauer Gallery 2009
New Traditions, Worcester MA Center for Crafts 1999
50th Anniversary Traveling Collection, Arrowmont School of Arts
and Crafts, Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs, MS 1998
Lin Majuscule, 1st Linen and Flax Biennial of Upper-Normandy, France 1996 (catalog)

Lin (traveling) Hotel des Archeveques de Sens, Paris, Museum of Textile, Ecomuseum of the Region Fourmies-Trelon, Fourmies, France 1996
Artists in Residence, Oregon College of Art and Craft, Hoffman Gallery, Portland 1996
A Textured Language: Honoring 20 Years of Fiberarts Magazine, Blue Spiral I Gallery, Asheville, NC 1996 (catalog)
The Essential Textile: A National Exhibition of Unconventional Fiber Art, The Guilford, CT, Handcraft Center, 1995
Shaw Cramer Gallery, Vineyard Haven, MA 1995
Homage: Inspirational Leaders in Regional Fiber Arts, 1920s-1980s Art St. Louis, MO 1995
Artists and Architects: Influence and Collaboration, Chicago AIA, Prairie Avenue Gallery, Chicago 1995
DMC-HIA Euro Fair, Maastricht, the Netherlands 1995
Au Fils Du Temps, (traveling) Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Yokohama 1994 (catalog)
Small Works, Gallery at Studio B., Lancaster, OH 1994
Celebrating the Stitch (traveling) USA, Canada, UK, Japan 1992-95 (book and catalog)
Uncommon Threads, Atlanta 1994
Needle Expressions (traveling) 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992 (juried) (catalogs)
Inspirations: Artists working in fiber find inspiration in architectural forms, O'Connor Gallery, Rosary College, River Forest, IL 1992
Expanding the Medium: Works by the Art Quilt Network/New York, Rockville, MD Arts Place 1992
Thread Dimension, North Arts Center, Atlanta 1990
Tapestry Today, Holthaus Gallery, Pt. Washington, NY 1989
Redefining the American Quilt, Pennsylvania State University 1987
Celebration in Embroidery, Carnegie Centre, Dunedin, New Zealand 1986
Fiber II, The Mindscape Collection, Chicago 1985
Made in Chicago, Festival of the Arts 1985
Fiber I: Concepts and Constructions, The Mindscape Collection, Chicago, 1984
6th Annual National Textile Invitational, Weber State College, Ogden, UT 1982
Fibers for Architectural Spaces, Houston 1981
Well Bred Threads, Columbia College, SC 1981
The Enchanted Object, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Asso. MI 1979
Textiles, Art Gallery, Southampton, England and Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, England 1977
Illinois Craftsmen 1975, Illinois State Museum, Springfield 1975

Represented By

Gravers Lane Gallery, Philadelphia PA
Carol Rubenstein and Associates, Philadelphia

Arts Related Employment

International

Visiting Professor, Department of Design and Embroidery, Joshibi College of Art and Design, Tokyo 2000-2005

Stik Plus, the Netherlands (workshops and lectures) 2004, 2002, 2000, 1999, 2014

Netherlands Textile Museum, Tillburg, (lecture and workshop) 2000

Visiting Lecturer, Windsor College, England 1991, 1995, 2000, 2004

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Design and Embroidery, Joshibi College of Art and Design, Tokyo 1999

Swiss-Bernina of Japan, Tutor, 1994, 1999-2005

Designer/Consultant for Aid to Artisans, Central Yucatan, Mexico 1991

Canadian Embroiderers Guild, London, Ontario (workshops, lectures and judging exhibition)

Embroiderers Guild UK, First International Tutor in England and Scotland (taught and lectured) 1991

Association of New Zealand Embroiderers (taught and lectured) 1990

Australian Embroiderers Guilds (taught and lectured) 1990

Association of New Zealand Embroiderers, (taught and lectured) 1987

Brescia College, University of Western Ontario (workshop) 1979, 1983

Ontario Crafts Council, Chatham College (taught, lectured and judged exhibition) 1975

National (Selected)

Self-Employed Studio Artist since 1979

Lectures: SOFA-Chicago 2004, 2005

Visiting Artist, U Mass/Dartmouth 1997

Visiting Artist, Southwest Craft Center, San Antonio 1997, 1995

Visiting Artist, Colorado State University 1995

Workshop Instructor/Lecturer (Selected)

Split Rock, University of Minnesota 1999

Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland 1995, 1991

Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN 1991, 1983, 1977

Council of American Embroiderers Study Retreats 1988, 1985

Council of American Embroiderers Annual Seminars (instructor) 1986, 1983, 1980, 1979, 1977, 1976, 1974

Artist in Residence, College of DuPage, IL 1977

Part-time faculty, College of DuPage, IL 1974-78

Juror: Tacoma Community College Summer Show 2005, 2003

Juror: Fiberart International, Pittsburgh, PA 2004

Juror: Beadworks, The Dairy Barn, Athens, OH 1998

Juror: Fiber Focus, Art St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 1995

Juror: Betty Park Critical Writing Award, Surface Design Journal 1994

Juror: Texas Fiber Artists State Exhibition, San Antonio 1994

Juror: Needle Expressions 1984

Curatorial

Traces, Gregg Museum of Art and Design, North Carolina State University 2011, Exhibition of 40 works by 12 artists

Celebrating the Stitch: Midwest Artists, Textile Arts Center, Chicago 1991

Celebrating the Stitch, Exhibition of 140 works of contemporary embroidery (traveling) Newton, MA Arts Center, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, Traveled to 11 venues in USA, Canada, UK and Japan

The US and Us. Exhibit sponsored by the Association of New Zealand Embroiderers, toured New Zealand 1996-97

Mirabella Retirement Community, Seattle

Mitsubishi Financial Services, Tokyo

Naperville, IL National Bank

National Boulevard Bank, Chicago

Northern Trust Bank, Chicago

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago

Packaging Corporation of America

Pittsburgh, PA National Bank

Resurrection Health Care, Chicago

Ramada Hotels

Rockwell Industries

Salvation Army Headquarters, Dallas TX

Schuyler, Roche and Zwerner, Chicago

St. Anthony's Hospital, Gig Harbor WA

Swiss-Bernina Headquarters, Switzerland

Universal Access, Chicago

Washington National Insurance Company, Evanston IL

West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park IL

Volunteer and Art-Related Positions

Board of Trustees, Bellevue Arts Museum 2012- 2015

Hand to Hand project that encouraged donations of books on craft to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt in response to the Iraq wars, 2002

Editorial Committee, Surface Design Journal 2002-2011

Tacoma Community College, % for Art Awards Committee 2004

Tacoma Community College, Gallery Board 2004-2006

DuPage Textile Art Guild, Founding President

Design Review Commission, Village of Oak Park, IL 1982-86

Community Design Commission, Oak Park, IL 1982-86

Textile Arts Center, Chicago, Board of Directors 1986-87

Textile Arts Center, Advisory Board 1984-85
Friends of Fiber Arts International, Professional Board
Editorial Advisory Board and Contributing Editor, The Working Craftsman 1974-78
American Crafts Council, Illinois Representative 1974-80

Publications And Books

Flight Patterns, An Exhibition of Fiber Art curated by Dorothy Moye, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport 2014-2015
Intersections: Recent Work of Barbara Lee Smith, Visions Art Museum, San Diego 2014
Pull of the Moon, 2011 Monograph with essay by curator Lynn Jones Ennis, Gregg Museum, NCSU
Traces, Exhibition catalog, curatorial essay and artist profiles, NCSU 2011
Going Out, Going In: The Language of Landscape with essays by Rick Snyderman and Carla Seaquist in conjunction with solo exhibition at Snyderman/Works Galleries 2009
Barbara Lee Smith, Monograph 2006 with essays by Patricia Malarcher and Lynda Lowe
The Fiberarts Design Books #s 1, 2, 4 and 5, 1980, 1983, 1991, 2004
A Common Thread: US Embassy, Colombo (catalog) 2005
100th Anniversary Exhibition catalog: Joshibi College of Art and Design, Tokyo 2003
Morrell, Contemporary Embroidery: Exciting and Innovating Textile Art, London, Studio Vista 1994
Wood, Everyday Encounters, Belmont, CA (work illustrated) 1995
Smith, Celebrating the Stitch: Contemporary Embroidery of North America, Taunton Press 1991
Fanning, The Complete Book of Machine Embroidery, Chilton 1986
Lambert, Staepelaere and Fry, Color and Fiber, Schiffer Publishers 1986
Feisner, Needlepoint and Beyond, Scribners 1980
Appel, The Fiber Craft Sampler, Chilton 1979
Belfer, Weaving: Design and Expression, Davis 1978
Michaels-Paque, A Creative and Conceptual Analysis of Textiles 1976

Magazines

Barbara Lee Smith: Water-Washed Light, Fiberarts, Summer 2006
Jane Friedman, Making Connections, American Style, Oct. 2004
Janneken Smucker, Review. Philadelphia's Month of Fiber, Fiberarts 9/10 2004
Ruta Saliklis, Review. Natural Elements: Sculptural Expressions, Fiberarts 2003
Barbara Lee Smith: Visual Artist, World Traveler, Ragdale Foundation Newsletter 2002
Review: Embroidery 2000: A Wealth of Creative Expression, Fiberarts 2001
Profile, Shenshoku-Alpha, Japan 2001
Judy Weisman, Fiber in Philadelphia, James Renwick Alliance Quarterly 1999
Review, Lodz Triennial, Textiel Forum (Europe) 1999
Gallery of Embroiderers: Barbara Lee Smith, Layers of Meaning, Embroidery, UK 1999
Camille Cook, Lodz Triennial, Fiberarts, Summer, 1998
Aaron Fine, Beadworks: A New Exhibition, Interweave Beadwork, Fall, 1997

Tilleke Schwarz, De Droomboten van Barbara Lee Smith (The Dreamboats), Texteil Plus, the Netherlands
October 1995

Interview, Needle Art Magazine, Tokyo 1995

Cover Art, The Flying Needle, February 1993

Working on a Wide Canvas: The Art of Barbara Lee Smith, Madeira News, UK Fall, 1992

Needle Expressions '90: The Traveling Show, The Flying Needle Feb. 1991

Barbara Lee Smith, Threads (New Zealand) April, 1991

Patricia Malarcher, Embroidery: State of the Art, Fiberarts, Nov/Dec 1991

Judith Schonbak, Review. Exhibiting the Thread Dimension, Fiberarts 1991

Cover art. Threads (New Zealand) 1986

Textile Trends: Collecting in Chicago, Fiberarts 11/12/1985

Jane Lucas, Barbara Smith: Views from Within, Fiberarts Sept/Oct 1983

Lorraine Meyer, Barbara Lee Smith, Fiber Artist, Needle Arts, Fall, 1983

Robbie Fanning, B.L.S. Open Chain, July 1983

Objects of Play, Review. School Art 1/19/1979

Newspapers: Betty Freudenheim, Review. Uniting Tapestry and Technology, The New York Times,
Sunday 10/15/1989

Jacqueline Hall, Review. Fabric the medium for brilliant creativity, Columbus, OH Dispatch 6/12/94

Blue Greenberg, Review. Stitched with a godly touch. Durham, NC The Herald Sun, 1/30/1994

Mary Breslin, Weave World (profile), Forest Park Review, 11/9/1994

What a Stitch, Kirkland, WA Eastside Week 6/23/93

Renee Enna, Exhibit celebrates fabric of art, Pioneer Press, IL 9/9/1992

Mary Houlihan-Skilton, Stitching in a New Light (profile), Chicago Sun-Times, Sunday 7/26/1992

Roberta Morgan, 'Expanding the Medium': quality quilts at R.A.P. (review), The Rockville MD Gazette,
8/5/1992

Susan Phinney, The New Art of Crafts, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 5/11/1992

The Bridge is Embroidery, Kerrville, TX Mountain Sun 9/23/92

Profile. Auckland, New Zealand Herald 1990

Melisse Laing, Workshop participants have designs on words, Longview, WA Daily News 9/23/1988

Eve Dumavich, Colorful Threads trap feelings in fabric (profile), Tacoma WA News Tribune 5/31/1986

Marie Irvine (review) Weber State National Invitational, Craft Range, 5/6/1982

Fiber as Structure, Review. Artweek 12/11/1982

Marion Beam, Stitcher's Studios, Flying Needle, May 1978

Carla Kelson, Something Different, Chicago Magazine, Nov 1976

Author: Celebrating the Stitch: Contemporary Embroidery of North America.
Newton CT, The Taunton Press 1991

Forward, Threads of Experience: Fabric and Thread Imagery by
Deidre Scherer, Papier Mache Press 2003

Catalog Essay, Renie Breskin Adams 2002

Needle and Thread: Old Tools, New Magic, Surface Design Journal, Summer 2007

Audrey Walker: The Textured Figure. Surface Design Journal, Summer 2006

The Presence of Absence, Surface Design Journal, Winter 2005

Review: Selvedge Magazine, Surface Design Journal, Spring 2005

Review: Twyla Tharp, The Creative Habit, Fiberarts, Summer 2004
Review: Jac Scott, Textile Perspectives in Mixed-Media Sculpture, Fiberarts, 11/12 2004
Beadwork of Laura Willitts, Surface Design Journal , Summer 2003
Found in Translation: Three Artists from Japan, Fiberarts 11/12 2001
A Spiritual Collection: Fiberarts, 9/10 2001
Judith Scott: Finding a Voice, Fiberarts, Summer, 2001
Profile: Lynda Lowe, Surface Design Journal, Winter, 2001
Textured Time, Surface Design Journal Spring, 1999
In Praise of Amateurs, Fiberarts Commentary 3/4 1999
A Brief History of Mine, Fiberarts 9/10 1999
Deceived by Ornament, Surface Design Journal Winter, 1998
Reviews: Art Textiles of the World: Great Britain and Japan, Laury,
Imagery on Fabric, Fiberarts, Summer, 1998
Collaborating with Nature: From Photo to Fiber, Surface Design Journal Spring, 1997
Visual Journals: Ways of Seeing, Fiberarts 11/12 1997
Reviews: Wells, Creative Bead Weaving and Contemporary Beads and Beadwork, Loveland Co Museum
catalog, Surface Design Journal, Summer 1997
Mending Lives: Art and Healing, Fiberarts 1996, reprinted in Social Issues Resources Series,
Renaissance Electronic Database CD
The Weight of Shadows: Noriko Narahira's Reinvented Lace, Surface Design Journal 1996
Essential Stitches: Marks of Memory, Magic and Meaning, Surface Design Journal Fall, 1995
Art and Illness, Fiberarts 1995, reprinted in Social Issues Resources series
Three Years on the Road and Some Thoughts on Embroidery, Flying Needle, May 1995
Review: The New Beadwork, by Moss and Scherer, Fiberarts 3/4 1994
Connecting Threads, Craft Arts International, Australia Volume #27, 1993
Review: Flowers for Embroidery, Box, Threads USA 1993
The New Embroidery: Tradition and Innovation, Surface Design Journal Summer, 1992
A Song Without Words, Embroidery UK 1990
Paints, Brushes and Stitches: Artists at the Sewing Machine, Threads USA Dec. 1991
On Creativity, Threads NZ 1988
Four Embroiderers: Small and Large Scale, Fiberarts 9/10 1989
Creativity: It's the Work that Counts (also cover photo) Flying Needle, Nov. 1987
Creativity, Threads NZ 1987
On Design and Creativity, Handwoven 11/12 1984
Guest Column on Design, Open Chain, July 1984
Restorations: A Personal Approach to Design, Flying Needle, August 1980
Book Columnist, The Working Craftsman 1976-78
On Mixing Media, Flying Needle, Winter, 1976