

FACT SHEET



About Textile Center

Textile Center is a national center for fiber art. Its mission is to honor textile traditions and promote excellence and innovation in fiber art. Located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Textile Center represents and supports fiber artists working in all forms of textile techniques including weaving, quilting, knitting, sewing, needlework, lace making, basketry and beading. A critical part of Textile Center's mission is to bring validation and visibility to this field of art. Textile arts arise from all cultures, and Textile Center works to preserve traditional forms as well as to encourage experimentation and the development of new fiber art forms.

Memberships

There are three types of members at Textile Center: individual, organizational and business members. While each member type has unique benefits, they all help support the creative development of fiber artists and sustain the textile community, as well as enjoy opportunities to network with other textile and fiber organizations. In addition, member organizations use Textile Center facilities for meetings, workshops and classes.



Joan Mondale Gallery

History

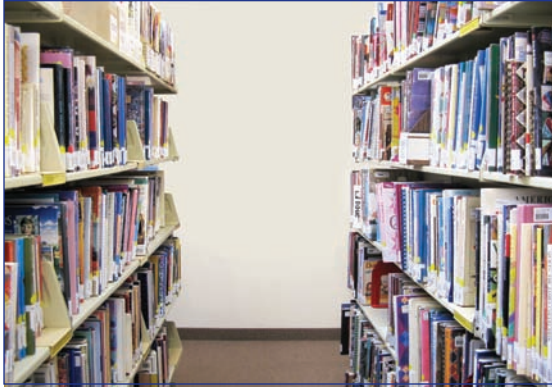
Textile Center was formed by a group of fiber artists and patrons and incorporated in 1994. As an umbrella arts organization for fiber artists and textile arts groups, Textile Center's goals are to:

- Inspire and support fiber artists.
- Increase public access to and education about fiber art.
- Foster and promote diversity in all areas of fiber art.
- Preserve fiber art skills and traditions.
- Provide a central networking and resource facility for fiber artists.

During its first seven years Textile Center operated from an office in St. Paul and it presented three or four annual fiber art exhibitions in venues across the region. At the same time, Textile Center founders were building connections among textile guilds, fiber artists and textile arts enthusiasts and they began an extensive search for a permanent home.

In 2000, Textile Center found a 1920s one-story brick building in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, and a capital campaign was launched to pay for the purchase and renovation of this building.

Rapson Architects designed the renovation of the building, originally a Ford auto showroom, and uncovered many of the building's original features including clerestory windows, terrazzo floors and trusses that had been hidden for years. The facility opened in 2001, and this led to a dramatic expansion of Textile Center programs and services.



Pat O'Connor Library



Textile Center Shop

Galleries

At Textile Center, there are three galleries: the Joan Mondale Gallery, the Community Gallery and the Pat O'Connor Library Gallery. More than a quarter of a million people have visited Textile Center to view exhibitions. In the last three years, more than 50 exhibitions showcased the work of 1,200 artists.

The Joan Mondale Gallery is a light-filled, two-level gallery space that presents juried, invitational and member exhibitions. In the summer of 2011, the Joan Mondale Gallery showcased the exhibition *I Am a Link*, which featured pictorial rugs by Dorothy Sauber. This exhibition won the public's vote for "Most Inspiring" during the first annual Best of Twin Cities Fine Arts Organization Awards.

The Community Gallery occupies the center corridor of the building and the artwork is primarily by member guilds and local artists. Fiber art guilds showcase the creative talent of their members: art quilts, imaginative dolls, intricate beadwork, edgy knitwear and more.

The Pat O'Connor Library Gallery is a colorful exhibition space where authors can show the work featured in their books. Guilds' and individual fiber artists' work is also displayed.

Education

Education is an integral part of promoting and supporting fiber art and artists. Textile Center offers more than 70 classes and workshops each year, along with lectures and presentations by an international roster of textile artists and historians. Attendance for classes and programs includes more than 900 adults, 200 summer camp participants, 1,600 school and community youth participants, and 140,000 outreach participants. Textile Center also partners with more than 40 schools and community and arts organizations.

Shop

Textile Center Shop, located across from Textile Center Joan Mondale Gallery, offers emerging and established textile artists the opportunity to sell their work to the public. Rigorously juried, the fiber art presented in the shop encompasses all types of textile art techniques and media.

The shop's shelves and walls create a comfortable gallery effect, inviting visitors to see the art up close—touching is encouraged! In 2011, Textile Center Shop won the public's vote for "Best Art Gift Shop" during the first annual Best of Twin Cities Fine Arts Organization Awards.

Library

Textile Center Pat O'Connor Library, with tens of thousands of books, periodicals and electronic media, is the largest circulating collection of fiber art resources in North America. Housing the largest circulating collection of fiber books, periodicals and media materials in the country, the library remains an invaluable research and design resource for artists and students.

Dye Lab

Textile Center Ellen Errede Wells Dye Lab is the only professionally equipped lab in this region available to the public. It includes dye vats, commercial burners, a steam cabinet, a washer and a dryer. It also has venting systems for safe mixing of dye powders and fume extraction and extra-long work tables to accommodate fabric yardage. Adults and youth use this resource to learn dye techniques and to undertake ambitious dye projects in a safe environment.