

## The Chemistry of FiberLab: Textile Arts Exhibition

**January 31, 2021** (Somerville, MA). An exhibition of textile art produced by a Somerville-based fiber arts collective comes to the Lexington Arts & Craft Society this spring, running from **March 14-April 4, 2021**.

*The Chemistry of FiberLab* is curated by award-winning textile artist Jodi Colella, and features the artwork of students in her independent study group *FiberLab*. Begun in 2015, the group, under the tutelage of Colella, experiments with material and process while developing personal connections within a supportive community.

“I launched FiberLab to provide a place to expand knowledge, skills, and most importantly, creativity,” says Colella. “Working with different mediums can be very expensive and precious, inhibiting the ability to relax and “let it all go.” When provided with access to materials and tools, there is freedom to play, be brave and allow our instincts to guide us. We started calling it FiberLab after a few sessions because it describes our inquisitively open and experimental approach. There are no wrong answers in the ‘Lab because all efforts, even those that end unexpectedly, are successful in advancing our knowledge and enhancing discovery.”

Exposure to a variety of techniques and skills is what drives many to participate in Colella’s collective. “I joined FiberLab for a couple of reasons,” says Ellen Solari, a Belmont fiber artist who focuses on fiber sculptures. “When I joined, I was a relative newcomer to the world of fibers. There were so many techniques that joining Fiber Lab gave me an opportunity to experiment with a wide variety of approaches and materials. It also introduced me to other fiber artists. At FiberLab, I found my tribe.”

For Amy Pett, a fiber artist in Jamaica Plain, FiberLab gives her an opportunity to see her work differently and continue to evolve as an artist. “Jodi and FiberLab have enriched my art practice in so many ways: getting me going again when I’ve been stuck, teaching me new techniques and new ways to use materials that have inspired new directions for my own art, seeing the wonderful work of the other artists in FiberLab and being inspired by them, and being a community of artists and friends who can share the highs and lows of being an artist. And especially during this dark time, I have felt held and supported by Jodi and the other FiberLabbers.”

“Artist’s work is often solitary and there is much discussion about the benefits of art communities for the health and wellbeing of individuals,” says Colella. “Each of us brings different experiences and skillsets that add to the diversity of the mix. We have become a beloved bunch who are invested in each other’s objectives while encouraging risk-taking in the development of a personal voice.”

The work of more than 16 artists will be featured in the exhibition. The pieces investigate the processes used in mixed media 2D, 3D, painting, printmaking, needle arts, surface design, dyeing and more.

Artists include: Tori Costa, Judith Felton, Molly Foley, Rebekah Lord Gardiner, Cassandra Goldwater, Meck Groot, Denise Howard, Cindy Kennelly, Jean Masland, Charlotte Moore, Amy Pett, Stacey Piwinski, Ellen Solari, Dayna Talbot, Rebecca Tuck, Cynthia Walat, Karen Weinhaus and Rochelle Zohn.

This exhibition will be among the first at the newly renovated Molly Harding Nye Gallery at Lexington Arts & Crafts Society. “We are excited to welcome Fiber Lab to LexArt”, says Matthew Siegal, Executive Director. “Expanding on our program of providing exhibition space to community arts and cultural organizations is a key goal of how we plan to use the beautiful new Nye gallery going forward”.

*The Chemistry of FiberLab* will run through April 4, 2021. A virtual opening reception is currently scheduled for Sunday March 14, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The reception is open to the public.

**Virtual Reception:** Sunday March 14, 2021 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Details to be announced)

**Lexington Arts & Crafts Society**, 130 Waltham St, Lexington, MA 02421

**Exhibition Dates and Hours:** March 14-April 4, 2021; Wednesday thru Friday 12-4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm; Free admission.

#### **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

Jodi Colella is an artist, teacher and community builder who exhibits and teaches internationally. She is a member of Boston Sculptors Gallery and the recipient of a 2019 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship Award for Sculpture. Jodi's exhibitions include The Textile Museum in Washington D.C.; Textile Center, Minneapolis; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton; World of Threads, Toronto; and Da Wang Culture Highland in Shenzhen China among others. She has collaborated on several public art projects, and her work is held in multiple museum collections. Recently interviewed for WGBH's Open Studio with Jared Bowen, her work has featured in The Boston Globe, Surface Design Journal, The Woven Tale Press, Vasari 21, Artistry in Fiber, POSIT and TextileArtist.org.

[www.jodicolella.com](http://www.jodicolella.com)

#### **ABOUT LEXINGTON ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY**

Lexington Arts & Crafts Society (LexArt) was founded in 1935 as a non-profit regional education center dedicated to the preservation and promotion of excellence in both the traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. LexArt supports, encourages and inspires artisans at all stages of their creative journeys and promotes art in the community by providing studio space, gallery shows, classes and workshops. [www.lexart.org](http://www.lexart.org)