

May Weaving Sample

Fancy Twill Award Ribbons

By: Peggy Bowman and Lynne Lovett

Living with Beauty: Handwoven Textiles for the Home

The Story of the Award Ribbons

What a lovely concept, Living with Beauty: Handwoven Textiles for the Home. It's what we do. We adorn, clothe and surround ourselves with beautiful handwoven textiles, from the practical basics to the edgy art. We create and live with beauty, so it was a real honor and a real challenge to be asked to weave award ribbons for a juried show focused on just that - living with beauty!

Co-chairs Susan Bowman and Bev Weaver convinced Lynne Lovett and Peggy Bowman to weave the award ribbons in early summer of 2007. They wanted to give the weavers lots of time! The four talked about basic concepts, kinds and numbers of awards, and agreed on size and length to accommodate the award certificates. There would be four ribbons: First; Second; Third; and Best of Show.

Then it was over to Lynne and Peggy to create the ribbons. They divided the whole process into designing, dyeing, weaving and embellishing, decided who was going to do what, looked at the timeline and got to work.

The design: four inches in the reed, weave 12 inches of fabric, leave four inches of fringe, and hemstitch. Lynne and Peggy chose yarns and colors: a fine cotton black warp, and blue, red, yellow and pearl gray weft of silk or Tencel. Their mutual stashes had the materials they needed - 20/2 cotton and 20/2 Tencel.

Lynne dyed four skeins of Tencel and sent Peggy the blue and pearl gray and the warp cotton. They considered using a metallic or glitzy yarn for at least the Best of Show ribbon, but put that decision off until both had weft colors in hand.

Peggy wove the First and Best of Show ribbons on her 8-shaft Baby Wolf using a point twill threading, and an overshot treadling. The tabby or tie down thread on both was a metallic thread that made the dyed Tencel pop. She hand washed both ribbons carefully, pressed them, then embellished each. She found that part almost as much fun as watching the color and pattern emerge during weaving.



Lynne wove the Second and Third ribbons on a 4-shaft Dorsett while she was recovering from foot surgery and caring for her mother-in-law, who was recovering from eye surgery. Lynne added a red silk yarn to her red Tencel weft for the Second place ribbon and a rayon sewing thread to the yellow Tencel for the Third place ribbon. She wove both in a fancy twill, then stitched glass beads on the surface to embellish the ribbons, and created a beaded fringe for the second place ribbon.

Lynne and Peggy hope the ribbons will surround the award recipients with even more beauty.

Photo is of the Best of Show ribbon.

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