

CONFLUENCE 2011 BY SUSAN BOWMAN

I just returned from **Confluence**, the 2011 International Surface Design Association (SDA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. It was jointly sponsored by SDA and the Textile Center in Minneapolis-St. Paul and was packed with exhibits, demonstrations and a stellar list of speakers including Jane Dunnewold, Jiyoung Chung, Bhakti Ziek, India Flint, Stephen Fraser (Spoonflower), Faythe Levine (DIY) and Natalie Chanin (Alabama Chanin). Diverse topics ranged from felting, weaving, dyeing and other surface techniques to ecologically sustainable trends and unique business models that are thriving in today's world.



The fashion show took place on Saturday night, with the title/theme of **Bodies of Water**. This professionally produced runway show took place in the historic Grainbelt Bottlehouse Atrium. It was very exciting to see Anne Vickrey Evans' piece come down the runway! Anne's coat, *The Polar Sea*, was constructed from studio dyed silk fabric, merino wool roving and heat bondable iridescent fiber. It was hand felted (wet and hybrid felted) and sewn and looked nothing short of amazing on the runway.



This year, the Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis is the location of exhibits (up through 6/30/11) featuring India Flint, Tim Harding, Mara Edna Fraser, Linda Gass and Barbara Lee Smith. It is also the site of the SDA Members' Show with the title/theme of **Merge and Flow**.

I was thrilled to see that my piece titled *Meander* won the Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) Award. *Meander* is an original pattern woven in cotton and polyester then dyed in two separate processes. It was permanently pleated before airbrushing gold highlights onto the rippled surface.



45" Four Harness Floor Loom - \$1500.00 - Custom made birch and maple
Accessories: 2 reeds: 8-dent and 10-dent, 2 - 9" boat shuttles, 2 - 27" flat shuttles, 2 - 29" flat shuttles, 2 - 27" ski shuttle, raddle, lease sticks, 20 bobbins.



Also for sale:

Tools: Warping board, Ball winder, Cone holder, The McMoran Yarn Balance

Yarns: 19 rolls of cotton strips and cord for warp for a rug

Books: The Weaver's Book - Harriet Tidball A Handweaver's Pattern Book - Margerite Porter Davison The Key to Weaving - Mary E. Black

Learning to Weave with Debbie Redding Weaving a Tapestry - Laya Brostof

Finishing Touches for the Handweaver - Virginia West A Rug Weaver's

Source Book Weaving Tricks by Susan Gilmurra, 8 Handwoven mags and monographs

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