



CONVERGENCE®
HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF AMERICA, INC
FIBER ARTS CONFERENCE
NEW ORLEANS • 2026

Creative Spirits of the River **Yardage Exhibit**

Like the Mississippi, cloth carries memory. Each thread interlaces stories—of ancestors, of place, of the unseen currents that shape our lives. The [Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.](https://www.hga.org/) (HGA) invites artists worldwide to enter ***Creative Spirits of the River***, a juried exhibition of constructed and/or embellished yardage that showcases the richness of fiber art techniques.

Inspired by New Orleans—a city alive with ghosts, rhythms, and the ever-present river—this exhibition seeks work that embodies the spirit of transformation. Whether woven, felted, stitched, dyed, coiled, knotted, or spun, yardage becomes more than material: it is a vessel for remembrance, innovation, and imagination. Yardage offers artists the freedom to explore pattern, rhythm, texture, and surface in expansive and expressive ways.

Let your work flow like the river and join this collective celebration of fiber's enduring power.

Exhibit	August 13 – 16, 2026, to be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.
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Juror	Mary Zicafoose is an award-winning textile artist known for bold color, dramatic scale and articulate process in contemporary Ikat tapestry. She also translates her powerful ethno-contemporary textile images into fine prints. She received her BFA from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN with graduate studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Nebraska. Zicafoose was a 2008 Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts resident artist, is co-director of the American Tapestry Alliance, chairman of the board of the Omaha Union For Contemporary Art, and former board member of RugMark USA and the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery. International exhibitions include the 13th Triennial of Tapestry in Lodz, Poland, Interweaving Cultures, Museo de Textil, Oaxaca, Mexico and Peter Gray Museum, Puerto Vallarta and the collections of fifteen United States Embassies abroad. She lives, weaves and teaches from her home on the Great Plains in Omaha, NE.
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Jurying	<i>HGA seeks to feature work that is not only of the highest caliber in craftsmanship and technical ability, but which also speaks to the intricacy of expression, the intimacy of design, thoughtful communication, and visual excitement.</i>
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The juror independently screens all images and makes the preliminary selection of all work in the exhibition. Entries will be evaluated on concept, design, technique, craftsmanship, and creative exploration.

Accepted work is subject to final approval by the juror's representative upon arrival at the exhibition venue. Work that exceeds the size limitation and/or differs significantly from the digital image representing it will be ineligible for the exhibition and returned to the artist.

Submission to the exhibit implies that the artwork represented on the digital images will, if chosen by the juror, be available for the exhibition and that the artist understands that all accepted work, without exception, must remain for the duration of the exhibition.

Eligibility	Works exhibited in previous Convergence® Conference exhibits are not eligible. Work executed under classroom/educational guidance or supervision is not eligible. Submitted work is limited to works made using fiber techniques (interlaced, felted, stitched, dyed, coiled, knotted, pulled, spun, etc.) and can be of any material. All work must be of exhibition quality, completed within the last two years (since August 2024), and not previously published in any national or international print publication. The size of the finished work must be between: • Width: Between 18 inches (45.7 cm) and 45 inches (1.143 m) • Length: Between 3 yards (2.74 m) and 5 yards • Weight: Must not exceed 20 pounds (9.07 kg)
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Applicants must add a casement piece to the back of their yardage, along the “top edge.” Choose a fabric that is very similar in color and texture to your yardage, but ensure it is strong enough to support the weight of your

yardage when hung. The casement should provide a 3-inch open space after it is sewn on for ease of inserting the hanging rod into one side of your yardage and out the other side. Sewing on the casement can be done by hand stitching or by machine.

For each entry, create an 8-inch x 8-inch (20.3 cm) square touch panel with neatly finished edges ready for display. An identification tag needs to be attached to the back of the square. Include the title of the artwork and the name of the artist. If your work is juried into the exhibition, you will need to ship the touch panel and the juried work in the same box. Mailing instructions will be provided to artists of artworks accepted into the exhibition.

Image Requirements

Images must be submitted as digital images of completed work. A minimum of one (1) image of the entire artwork (including any framing) and one (1) detail image are required.

Images may be color-corrected to accurately represent the work, but they should not be enhanced in any way. Image editing is limited to cropping and adding or modifying a solid background of white, black, or gray.

The artist's name must not be visible on the digital image, or your entry will be eliminated.

All images should be in JPG format, using the maximum quality setting with a resolution of at least 300ppi. The length on the long side of the image should be approximately 3000 pixels to have a clear, large image.

Name your image in the following format (DO NOT include the Artist's Name):

Image Title Format: Artwork Title_Artwork Image Description

Examples: Sunflowers
Sunflowers_Detail

The images of accepted work will become the property of HGA and may be used for HGA publications and other promotional purposes.

Entry Procedure

Entry is a **two-step** process. If you enter more than one artwork, repeat the process for each work. [Visit our website](#) to begin.

1. Complete the [Exhibit Entry Payment Form](#).
2. Upon successful completion of the Exhibit Entry Payment Form, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to enter your artwork information and images.

Entry Fees

\$18 per piece for HGA Members
\$25 per piece for Non-Members
\$ 0 per piece for Students (If the artist does not have an active HGA Student Membership, then a copy of the artist's student ID from an accredited educational institution must be uploaded when completing the Online Entry Form.)

Presentation of Work

All accepted entries must be sent ready to show and exhibit. All work must be received ready to install. If work is accepted, specific hanging instructions will be provided. Entries must remain on display until the conclusion of the exhibit.

Shipping

Shipping instructions will be sent after the acceptance notification. Work should be packed very well and shipped in a substantial reusable container. Artists must pay shipping and insurance costs to and from the venue. International return shipping may require a valid credit card. Contact HGA for details. No hand delivery of work will be allowed.

Artworks for different exhibits must be shipped separately. For example, a Wearable Art exhibit artwork and a Yardage exhibit artwork may not be shipped together but rather separately in two different boxes. However, if two Yardage exhibit artworks are accepted, then both Yardage exhibit artworks may be shipped together in the same box.

Awards

First (\$500), Second (\$250), Third (\$100) place, and Honorable Mention will be selected by the juror. Additional special criteria awards may be available. For updates, please check the HGA website www.WeaveSpinDye.org.

Sales

Artists have the option to list their artwork for sale. HGA will take a 20% commission on all sold works. Payment for the works will be made within 14 days of the buyer's receipt of the artwork.

Liability Exhibit artworks will be insured from the time of receipt for the insurance value indicated on the entry form up to \$2,000 and will be insured against all risks of physical loss or damage from any external cause while artworks are on location during the period of the loan. Insurance excludes loss or damage that occurs by any event beyond the control of HGA or the exhibition host venue.

During shipment, the insurance regulations of the shipping company will be in effect. The artist must provide any additional insurance.

Calendar	April 20, 2026	Entry deadline
	May 18, 2026	Jury notification sent by email
	July 2026	Accepted entries must be received by Event Decorator
	August 13 – 16, 2026	Exhibition dates
	August 2026	Work Returned to Artists

Questions Call (678) 730-0010 or Email Mandy@WeaveSpinDye.org