

## TUTORS AND WORKSHOPS OF TAFTA's April FORUM 2011 in Orange NSW 10-16 April 2011

### **3-END BLOCK WEAVE**

**Jason Collingwood** (UK) learned to weave rugs at the age of 18, and worked briefly for his father, Peter. After setting up his own workshop, aged 24, he has now been weaving rugs for 24 years, producing thousands of rugs, for both public and private commission. Jason is in great demand as a teacher, spending 3-4 months of each year in North America and the UK, sharing his extensive rug weaving knowledge. He has made instructional DVD's, been published and has his own range of rug wool.

While this is essentially a rug weaving workshop, workshop, consider also that the techniques learnt can be applied to all manner of other weaving formats. Shaft switching has application for weaving yardage; and those finishing techniques.... just think how they'll add to a wall hanging. The basis is an exploration of three-end block weaves, the same structure used by Jason Collingwood to weave all his rugs. Start with simple two-colour designs and move on to designing within the blocks, and the introduction of a third colour. Techniques such as clasped wefts and dovetailing will be looked at to further increase the design scope of this structure. 2/1 double faced twill will also be covered in this class. Special emphasis will be placed on Shaft Switching, with EVERYONE being able to adapt their looms in class to try out this exciting technique. Included are instructions on how to set up one's loom correctly for rug weaving; also twining at the beginning and end of the rug, darning in of the loose ends, use of the temple and many other tips for successful rug weaving. The class concludes with a look at rug finishes, and a few of the many possible finishes will be demonstrated. We warp up during the class itself. Any 4-harness loom is fine, including table looms. No materials fee

### **ROCK PAPER SCISSOR**

**Judy Dominic** (USA), a popular tutor of the FORUM in the past, has been weaving in some fashion or other since 1979 and currently indulges in all sorts of fiber techniques. She exhibits throughout North America in invitational and juried shows, and teaches nationally and internationally. Her use of naturals and odd materials has become somewhat of a signature. She lives near woods full of vines, and has a basement full of potential creative stuff... She asks "What if...?" and "Why not...?" a lot - and enjoys posing these same questions with her students.

Do some mixing and matching in this week of 'Extreme Experimentation' as a way to free up your ideas and add to your skills repertoire. Start with any technique or material and develop a 3-D structure, decorative or functional - something that can be layered, added to, embellished, or changed in a myriad number of ways. Bring some starting points with you or come prepared to make them on site (the tutor is happy to advise in advance). Along the way you will have the opportunity to sample basketry techniques, do simple recycled papermaking, try variations of mud and rust dyeing, wield needles and hooks for stitching, and scrumbling, and choose from a number of ways to put it all together - or focus on any subset of the above techniques rather than all of it. Daily rounds of Rock Paper Scissors will help you decide which direction to go if you get stuck. Suitable for beginners as well as the more experienced. Small materials fee depending on use.

### **BEAUTIFUL BOXES AND BUTTONS**

**Barbara Schey** has had a long and successful career in the textile arts as maker, teacher and student. She has explored and incorporated many textile skills which she has shared in her highly praised workshops. She has studied the craft of buttony for over thirty years, including research in Europe, especially Dorset where she had lessons with Marion Howitt. She sees buttony as one of the "Gentle Arts" that can be practiced with little equipment and that has a rich history, together with practical and contemporary applications, for example the decorated box.

Participants will construct a box from acid free Bainbridge board, giving them the opportunity, if wanted, to cover the board with fabric - this could even be fabric that was previously dyed in a FORUM class. Concurrently, they will learn the old craft of buttony which originated in England in 1620 and, before that, on the continent. Students will decorate their completed boxes with the "buttons" to produce a one-off work. The fascinating history of "buttony" will also be shared as part of this course. Materials fee not to exceed \$10.

### **FREE STYLE APPLIQUE** *Textural Manoeuvrings*

**Kath Wilkinson** is interested in the balance between control and chaos in her work, and sees in it a parallel with the notion of innovation and tradition. The use of colour and design, drawing, and different methods of processing designs are an integral part of her work practice. She is largely inspired by the natural environment but also loves doing figurative pieces. She is currently using a lot of natural fibres and basketry techniques in her exhibition work but the "stitch" in its various guises is of primary importance. She has exhibited regularly since 1995, locally, nationally and internationally and has taught extensively. Formal qualifications include a MFA, BA Humanities, Dip Teach and Fashion Technology.

Investigate using appliqué, collage and stitch to create a brush stroke effect in textiles. This workshop explores ways of layering up backgrounds and using textural techniques to achieve impressionistic effects in embroidery composition. Design inspirations, techniques, fabrics

and threads will be considered alongside the use of machine and hand embroidery techniques. There will be some emphasis on exploring techniques and skills based in traditional practices and using them to realise their potential in contemporary embroidery. You may develop and work on either a single embroidered art project or you may prefer to work on building a design resource portfolio. Designs will be interpreted and analysed in terms of brush strokes, use of light, colour and general mood. No materials fee