

Karen Shapcott

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Artist's Statement

After knitting and spinning with wool for forty years I have found my true passion in the art form of felting. The combinations of colors and textures of felt allow me to express myself in abstract as well as functional art. I specialize in both dry and wet felting. Dry felting, also called needle felting, entails the taking of dry natural wool and using special needles to draw the fibers together to create the art piece. Wet felting entails the combining of wool and other natural materials which are then moistened and agitated by hand to draw the fibers together. The range of my work primarily encompasses fiber sculptures, wall hangings, and wearable art.

Juried Shows

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| 2008 | Artisans Center of Virginia: "Allegheny Craft Network Exhibit"
Waynesboro, Virginia |
| 2009 | Staunton Augusta Art Center: "Arts for Gifts" |
| 2010 | Staunton, Virginia |

Ongoing Exhibits

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| 2004
to present | Alleghany Highlands Arts & Craft Center:
Clifton Forge, Virginia. This juried center has a ongoing display of my seasonal sculptures, pins and scarves. |
| 2008
to present | Staunton Augusta Art Center:
Staunton, Virginia. The museum store has an exclusive display of my needle felted jackets. |
| 2009
to present | WYSIWYG Craft & Art Gallery:
Staunton, Virginia. This gallery of fine local arts displays my sculptures, seasonal variety of wearable pins, and scarves. |

Teaching Experience

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| 2005
to present | Alleghany Highlands Arts & Craft Center:
Clifton Forge, Virginia. I have taught numerous needle felting classes on creations of snow persons, cats, and pumpkins as well as witch and Easter bunny pins. |
| 2008
to present | Staunton Augusta Art Center:
Staunton, Virginia The center sponsors the Children's Art Network, a volunteer service to provide children exposure to different types of art. I have taught wet felting classes of painting with fiber, Easter egg felting, and making bracelets. |
| 2010 | Artful Gifts:
Monterey, Virginia. Felted pumpkins workshop. |
| 2010 | Middle River Creations:
Staunton, VA. Nunofelting (wool and silk) scarf technique. |

Workshops Attended

- 2005 “Sculptural Fantasy Figures” with Birgitte Hansen of Feltmaking.com.
- 2007 “Painting with Fiber” with Sharon Costello of Black Sheep Designs.
- 2008 “Nuno Explorations” with Robin Blakney-Carlson of Florafauna Textile Studio.
- 2010 Nunofelting retreat with Polly Sterling of Wild Turkey Felting.

Other Information

- 2010 West Virginia State Fair – Judge for Needle Felting division of the Arts exhibit.
- 2011 Professional Juried Artisan with the Artisan Center of Virginia.