

Preliminary Report:

First, I would like to thank the Grants Committee for giving me the opportunity to attend this conference. It was a wonderful, inspiring event.

I learned some interesting techniques relative to Saori weaving. My favorite technique learned involved using a tapestry beater or a fork to create hills and valleys within a weaving project. Weft clasped weaving and use of supplemental warps within a project were demonstrated. I also saw a clever use of hooks attached to a warping board, and how that helps in the warping process.

I have a plan to share the information I received during my Saori weaving class: I am fortunate to work at the Kenilworth Public Library. I host a "Yarnies" at the library group that meets the last Thursday of each month. I plan to do a hands-on session with this group. I will bring my 30" and 15" rigid heddle looms warped and ready for action. I will give some background information about the philosophy behind Saori weaving, and why this is so special. We will work with a variety of yarns, threads and fibers to create our weaving sample. I will demonstrate techniques including clasped weave, supplemental warp and how with the use of an ordinary kitchen fork, we can create interesting effects within our sample.

I also plan to make a presentation during a guild meeting regarding my class. I want to focus this particular presentation on the importance of using materials that are pleasing to you, the creator of a weaving, and how the selection of various types of yarns, threads and other materials used in weaving can transform your project into something really special. I will also go over the techniques we learned in class and the philosophy of Saori weaving.

After attending the MAFA Conference, I was brainstorming with a few people at my library. I hope to obtain funding to bring Tara from Kite Tales Weaving to our library. It would be fun for people to enjoy weaving on a Saori loom. I have figure out a way to make this happen. This is something to look forward to in 2018.

I hope to encourage others to open up to creativity, and learn more about fiber arts.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Czarnecki

Final Report:

I had a lovely experience attending the MAFA Conference for 2017. To be surrounded by so many talented fiber enthusiasts was uplifting and inspiring. I thank the Committee and the Dorosh family for the opportunity to attend the 2017 MAFA Conference.

Right away, I learned a weaving hack that makes warping on a warping board easier. The placement of eyelet screws at the top of the board helps guide the yarn and prevent tangles.



We learned the philosophy of Saori weaving. Weave with an open heart. There are no mistakes, people are not machines. We were encouraged to work with colors and textures outside our comfort zone. We learned techniques including clasped weave and supplemental warp as a design feature. We finished our weaving with Saori style tassels. The Saori vibe was evident in our classroom. We all helped one another and supported each other in our weaving lessons.

It was easy to share the Saori style weaving philosophy with others. Once a month I host “Yarnies: Fiber Nights at the Kenilworth Public Library”. I brought my Cricket loom, warped with black cotton. I spoke a bit about why Saori style weaving is so freeing. I had a hands-on demonstration allowing people to work on the loom. I also brought my sampler to show as an example of Saori weaving.



I also shared my MAFA conference experience with members of the North Country Spinners Guild. I brought my sampler to the meeting, but I also brought another woven piece using my handspun yarn and locks. It was great fun sharing this project with my guild mates. In addition to speaking about the free weaving philosophy, I also spoke about how Saori weavings are generally no wider than 21 inches. I passed around one of the Saori sewing books I have. Everyone was blown away by the beautiful clothing that can be created by stitching together pieces of cloth using basic patterns.

I had some wonderful conversations with members of my guild regarding Saori-style weaving, in fact I was inspired to weave this cap after speaking with someone about headwear:



My exploration of Saori weaving has continued. Just recently a friend and I attended a day session at Loop of the Loom in NYC. We wove on Saori looms, and were able to have a whole studio's worth of beautiful materials to incorporate into our fabric.



My experience at the MAFA 2017 Conference is something I will carry forever. I am excited to keep sharing my weaving experience with others. Saori-style weaving is beautiful, and the process of creating this fabric truly touches one's heart.