

Bio

judi.handwoven1@gmail.com

Judi Gaston is a self-taught fiber artist, working with fibers for many years. She was declared a State Treasure in 2011 when she was inducted into the Tennessee State Museum Fashion and Textile Institute. In her handwoven studio line of wearables she endeavors to bring the past into the present with the use of vintage embellishments, handwork, buttons, etc. Another body of her weaving shows a great concern and sensitivity for the environment. These mixed media wearable pieces come into being through manipulation and transformation of found humble materials, often involving a sense of humor with the goal of presenting them in an informative way to encourage recycling. She believes in the adage, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without."

Her work is in a number of museums and private collections. She was the winner of the 2018 American Craft Week National Artist Contest, "Metamorphosis- repurposed, recycled resourceful craft". She received a Juror's Award that same year in the Maryland Federation of Art, "Stormy Weather" exhibition. Judi was the featured artist in "Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot" Summer Edition, 2020 and is the invited artist in the international Convergence 2022 Fashion Show which will be taking place in Knoxville.

Judi Gaston has had a studio in the Emporium Building for the past 16 years.

Artist Statement

Attending the Cirque du Soleil together was immediate inspiration for us. What fun it would be to present a show by 3 artists, working in 3 different medias based on a circus! There were so many directions we could take.

The first piece I worked on for this show, "Mrs. Robinette, The Daredevil Horseback Rider", came from my beginning childhood memories of the circus – the fabulous costumes with all of the sparkle and glitz. After attending my first circus as a child, seeing it close up in real life – the costumes were tawdry, torn, stained and faded. It was a lesson in seeing things as they were, or as you wanted them to be. I decided then that the rest of my circus would be fun. Memories abound.