

HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF BOULDER



PHOTOS BY ANDREA GRAJEDA — STAFF WRITER

The Handweavers Guild of Boulder Fiber Art Show and Sale had a variety of creations, from rugs, jewelry, hats, blankets and more.

Fiber Art Show and Sale showcases members' creations

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Silk, wool, acrylic, cotton and more were woven, felted, knit and crocheted at the Handweavers Guild of Boulder Fiber Art Show and Sale.

The five-day show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds ended Sunday. The show displayed the work of many of the guild members, with a juried show and hundreds of hand-made items for sale.

Chandra Barker, assistant sale chair, said the guild welcomes any fiber artists and even those who are just beginning. She said fiber arts encompass a lot of different crafts such as weaving, knitting, crochet, quilting and felting, to name a few.

"This (the show) is an opportunity for our members to showcase their items," Barker said.

She said fiber arts are often part of one's heritage, and it is important to preserve that. She explained that often, people learn fiber arts from maternal figures in their life. So every time someone knits, she said as an example, they are connecting with their mother, grandmother and so on.

The show also has a juried showcase to which artists can submit their best work.

The theme to this year's showcase was "To Everything There is a Season," with the juror's choice award going to Carrie Lambert's "Salix," which she made by crocheting metal wire with beads to create a willow tree showing all the seasons.

Guild artist Colette Smith said the showcase had decorative and functional art. She showed how some artists used wool and felt to create scenes similar to an artist who uses chalk pastels.



Handweaver Guild of Boulder member demonstrates how she spins her own yarn.

Smith explained that rug makers have to be strong in order to weave very tightly to ensure the rug is functional. Some artists made their design through the weft, the horizontal fibers, while others used the warp, the vertical fibers.

Some HGB members see their creation the whole way through and have sheep, llama or alpaca whose wool they dye and spin into yarn or felt to create their art.

Rachel Courtney, HGB website manager, said everyone expresses themselves differently at different points of their life and that is what she loves about her showcase.

She noted 10 years from now, the showcase would look completely different.

"What I love about this is that ev-

ery piece of art is not just what the artist made, but it reflects on who taught them how to do that, and there's something so interwoven about that process," Courtney said.

Courtney said an old coworker of hers taught her how to crochet and she has been hooked since. She explained her old job was pretty sedentary, so it was great to be able to keep herself entertained by crocheting.

She said anyone can work with fiber, whether the artist chooses to shear their own wool or pick up acrylic yarn from a craft store. She said it can be as accessible as people choose, and opens up a world of different ways to express oneself.

The next HGB Fiber Art Show and Sale will be held Oct. 30- Nov. 3, 2024.