

## Visions Art Quilt Gallery showcases 'California Fibers'

Posted By [valerie.scher](#) On February 17, 2010 @ 11:25 pm In [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Visual Arts](#) | [1 Comment](#)

It's about time old school crafting techniques gained recognition outside the domestic art realm.

Just visit the Visions Art Quilt Gallery in Point Loma and you'll realize that there's a lot more to textiles than Grandma led you to think. The latest exhibit, "California Fibers: Liminal Spaces," offers a refreshing variety of works by local artists who put a new spin on mediums ranging from crochet and quilting to jewelry and basket weaving.

Among the juried collection, you'll find both abstract ideas and impressive feats of handiwork. The diversity of materials and concepts are intended to expand the general understanding of contemporary fiber arts while reflecting the movement's broad landscape. The show is produced by the nonprofit member organization, California Fibers, which has been promoting the professional advancement of textile artists since 1970.



"Sweet Dream" by Gwenn Beope. (Photo courtesy of Visions Art Quilt Gallery)

Melding both natural and industrial elements, the bird-like creatures you first encounter in the exhibit almost look like characters you'd find in a post-apocalyptic Land of Misfit Toys. Made by Cheryl Lommatsch of Long Beach, these folk art-inspired sculptures are constructed primarily out of wood and items you'd find in a toolbox—not exactly the soft and snuggly type of imagery you'd expect to see in a quilt gallery.

On a lighter note, there are the imaginative embroideries of La Jolla-based artist Gwenn Beope. Her colorful dreamscapes — with playful titles like "Everyone Loves Ice Cream" — resemble ink drawings at first glance, but upon closer inspection turn out to be entirely hand-stitched.

Each of Beope's illustrations takes years to complete, and it's no wonder. They require a meticulous process. First drawn out in pencil, they are then traced and colored with ink, and finally stitched with thread onto cotton fabric.

So if there's one thing that can be learned from fiber art, it's that patience pays off. For artists like Ashley Blalock, a San Diego native originally trained as a painter, it's precisely the time-consuming methodology that drew her toward crochet as a medium. Unlike manufactured goods, there's a much more personal investment that goes into this type of craft.

Her "Shadow Portrait" series features photographic images translated in filet crochet panels. They hang delicately from the ceiling casting ghost-like reflections that seem to float against the wall.

There are numerous examples of basket weaving, with notable contributions by Peggy Wiedmann of Huntington Beach. Using just pine needles and waxed linen, she manages to create seamlessly fluid and organic forms that take inspiration from nature and new beginnings.

All in all, some works may seem more refined than others, but that's not to say they aren't interesting to look at, especially if you're a crafter like myself.

Inquisitive visitors wanting to learn more about each artist's techniques can flip through the accompanying scrapbook on display with the collection. Containing anything from swatches to step-by-step instructions, it cleverly offers a glimpse into the artists' intentions beyond a simple written statement.

The staff and volunteers are always more than happy to answer questions and chat with you about the artwork. That's really the beauty of small, nonprofit spaces like the Visions Art Quilt Gallery.

As you walk from piece to piece, there's no awkward silence or bored-looking security guards. Instead, there's just a warm and welcoming atmosphere where you can relax and take your time.

*Asami Novak is an SDNN contributor.*

### **Event Info**

**What:** "California Fibers: Liminal Spaces"

**When:** Through April 25. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday

**Where:** Visions Art Quilt Gallery, 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 100 in the NTC Promenade at Point Loma's Liberty Station

**How much:** \$5 suggested donation

**Contact:** (619) 546-4872; [www.quiltvisions.org](http://www.quiltvisions.org) <sup>[1]</sup>



"Canyons" by Peggy Wiedmann.  
(Photo courtesy of Visions Art Quilt Gallery)

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