

Joan Morris

Master dyer Joan Morris, who has worked for the Theater Department at Dartmouth College for over twenty years, is a teacher and designer known internationally for her work with shibori, a textile technique of shaped-resist dyeing. She has been creating shibori fabric for Julie Taymor's award winning Broadway production of *The Lion King*, as well as its international venues and road productions. Her work has been shown in Asia, Europe, and the United States. Her work will be exhibited at the Rhode Island School of Design in February, 2008. Morris and Michelè Ratté have formed a textile printing business called Hesperides Research LLC where they have developed a patented process of printing precious metals on textiles. Morris will present a keynote lecture at Convergence, *A Textile Life*, to be given on Thursday morning, June 26, 2008. She will also lead a workshop at Convergence, *W320 Shibori with Vegetable Dye Extracts*.



Victoria Rivers

Victoria Z. Rivers earned her B.F.A. and two masters' degrees at Murray State University in Kentucky. A professor at the University of California-Davis in the Design Department since 1980, she is an artist, a researcher, a writer, and a lecturer of textiles and design. For more than ten years, Rivers researched historical cultures and their uses of shimmering embellishments of textiles for her book *The Shining Cloth: Dress and Adornment that Glitter*. As a studio artist, she is inspired by historical and contemporary arts to create pieces that are multi-layered in texture, meaning, and cultural significance. She has always been interested in Asian textiles as a collector and an artist and has been an avid enthusiast of basketry. Her wall pieces have been exhibited in museums in several countries. She will give a keynote lecture at Convergence on Friday afternoon, June 27, 2008, *The Shining Cloth: Materials and Meaning*. She will present four seminars, *S121 Southeast Asian Baskets: Ethnobotany, Agriculture, and Design*; *S214 Globalization Panel*; *S414 Wearing the World: The Visual Culture of Globalization*; and *S611 The Sun and the Moon: Protective Motifs in Embroideries*.



Willa Shalit

Willa Shalit is an artist, producer, photographer, author/editor, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. Her book, *Lifecast: Behind the Mask*, resulted from the plaster lifecast sculptures she began to create in the 1980s, such as those of Bill Gates, the Dalai Lama, and five American presidents. Shalit and these masks were featured in an Emmy Award-winning documentary for television, *Willa: Behind the Mask*. In 1998 she was the producer of the first anti-violence benefit performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* in New York, as well as the off-Broadway production of that play from 1999 to 2003, and the executive producer of HBO's film of the show in 2002, along with other productions Off-Broadway in 2002 and a play in 2004 on Broadway and one in South Africa. As a socially-conscious leader, she founded the Rwandan basketry partnership Path to Peace in July, 2005. This endeavor provides Rwandan women basketweavers with an income for their families, as well as an opportunity for healing interaction between the Tutsis and Hutus following the 1994 genocide in which almost a million people were killed. These baskets have been available only through Macy's. Shalit seeks to "...use art as a vehicle for social change" as she has worked to create additional markets for products made jointly by artisans in Palestine and Israel. Her latest book, *Becoming Myself: Reflections on Growing Up Female*, is a collection of essays by notable women published in 2006. At Convergence Shalit will present a keynote address, *Weaving Peace* on Thursday evening, June 26, 2008, and give a seminar, *S214 Globalization Panel*.

