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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Handweavers Guild of America Announces Scholarship Recipients for 2010: Katherine Earle and Kate Hempel**

December 1, 2010—The Handweavers Guild of America, (HGA), Inc., a not-for-profit fiber arts organization dedicated to encouraging excellence, inspiring creativity and preserving fiber traditions through education, introduces the Dendel and HGA Scholarship recipients for 2010.

Katherine Earle, the 2010 Dendel Scholarship Recipient grew up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire where she became interested in weaving when her mother inherited a loom. She remembers being thrilled to sit beside her and help as she wove. Later at the Putney School in Vermont, Earle's first true mentor, Melissa Lumley, a gifted fiber artists and weaving teacher taught Earle how to weave, sew, crochet and introduced her to dyeing. Earle is now developing her skills further in the fibers department of the Fine Arts Program at Concordia University in Montréal, Québec, where she is working toward her undergraduate degree under professor Barbara Layne.

Kate Hempel, a Canadian from Ontario and Quebec is the HGA Scholarship Recipient who is pursuing an MFA in Fiber and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SCAI). She formerly received a B.F.A. in Fibers from Concordia University in Montréal. Hempel initially interest in clothing as an outward way to relate to our social, cultural and geographical environment, eventually broadening her scope realizing that textiles in general accomplish this; they are one of our primary ways of affecting the world, on a personal level. Hempel's early mentor, Lysanne Latulippe, textile and fashion designer of Majolie knitwear in Canada, helped her think differently about textile structure and texture and to consider them as one. She is drawn to discourses of gender, power, class—political topics that fibers, perhaps of their intimate nature are uniquely equipped to address. Professors Barbara Layne and Ingrid Bachmann of Concordia have helped guide her studies; she is currently working with Anne Wilson at SCAI.

Established in 1995, the Dendel Scholarship, funded by gifts from Gerald and the late Ester Dendel, is administered by HGA to support a student or students, in the study of handweaving and related fiber arts at an accredited institution in the United States or Canada. The HGA Scholarship Fund is dedicated to furthering education in the fields of handweaving and related fiber arts, including training for research, textile history and conservation. Students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs in accredited schools in the United States and Canada are eligible for the HGA scholarship, which applies toward tuition.

The Fall issue of *Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot*, HGA's quarterly award-winning magazine, contains a feature article about the 2010 recipients and color photographs of their work. For more information about HGA's scholarship and grant opportunities, visit <[www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org)> or mail to HGA Scholarship & Grant Opportunities, 1255 Buford Highway, Suite 211, Suwanee, GA, 30024.

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