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Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.

Images available: (678) 730-0010

hga@weavespindye.org

www.weavespindye.org



Handweavers Guild of America Announces Scholarship Recipients for 2012: Rebecca Porche and Jolie Bird

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SUWANEE, GA – 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 the 2012-2013 academic year.

Rebecca Porche, the 2012 Dendel Scholarship recipient, developed an interest in weaving and dyeing with natural dyes while studying painting at Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina, and felting at Arrowmont School of Art and Craft in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Porche is inspired by the interplay of layers, colors and proportion. She is currently developing a line of accessory products with naturally dyed, hand-woven fabrics. Within her conceptual work she is exploring the idea of self (i.e., how the “nature of a person [can be] referenced in the properties of cloth.”) She finds increased enthusiasm and motivation through the passion of her mentor, Amy Putansu. Porche is currently studying fiber with a focus on weaving and entrepreneurship under Putansu at Haywood Community College in Clyde, North Carolina.



Jolie Bird, the 2012 HGA Scholarship recipient, weaves tapestries using popular, iconic imagery and creates sculptural pieces by meticulously wrapping everyday objects with mercerized, cotton thread. Her intent with this technique is to “highlight the objects’ shapes while creating a new delicate surface and pattern.” She is interested in the dichotomies inherent to textiles. Her attraction to fiber work began with her mother who taught her to knit, crochet and sew. While Bird credits her mother for her artistic success, she states, “I have been very fortunate to study under professional artists like Ruth Scheuing at Capilano University and Jane Kidd at the Albert College of Art & Design.” After completing her degree she plans to work as a full-time practicing artist. Bird is working toward her MFA at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.



Established in 1995, the **Dendel Scholarship**, funded by gifts from Gerald and Esther 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**, established by HGA in the early 1970s, 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 at accredited schools in the United States and Canada are eligible for the HGA scholarship, which applies toward tuition.

The Fall 2012 issue of **Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot**, HGA's quarterly award-winning magazine, contains a feature article about the 2012 recipients and color photographs of their work. For more information about HGA's scholarship and grant opportunities, visit www.weavespindye.org or mail HGA Scholarship & Grant Opportunities, 1255 Buford Highway, Suite 211, Suwanee, GA, 30024.