

# Marilyn Harrington - Fiber Art

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marilyn Harrington was born on a farm near Iowa City, Iowa and moved to Loudoun County 23 years ago. She received a BA from the University of Iowa and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked as a financial analyst and consultant for more than 25 years before retiring and becoming a full time fiber artist. Her work has been displayed at the Art League in Alexandria, Convergence in Minneapolis, the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center in Tarpon Springs, Florida, The Delaplaine in Frederick MD and at the Loudoun Museum in Leesburg VA.

She's a member of Studio Fiber Arts at the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton VA, Complex Weavers, Potomac Fiber Arts Guild, and Waterford Weavers Guild.

Her article on *Weaving with Beads—Some Experiments* was published in the Complex Weavers Journal. She teaches all levels of weaving at her home in Loudoun County as well as The Art League in Alexandria VA and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton VA.

My weaving is about exploring the interaction between colored fibers and the structure that connects them into clothing, accessories and wall hangings. Sometimes I let the colors speak to me about how they should be connected, but at other times I dye the fiber in order to control the color.



I do two main kinds of weaving, traditional loom weaving and an off-loom technique called triaxial weaving. My traditional loom weaving is done in a non-traditional way as I have a 32 shaft computer controlled loom which allows me a lot of design freedom in creating looping curls and waves instead of the more traditional rectangles and squares. My triaxial weaving is mostly about color and how to apply the technique to different fibers such as transparent silk ribbon, painter's canvas, or commercial fabric.

I love working with fiber because the results of a fiber project can never be truly predicted until the piece is finished. The optical color mixing found in fiber projects is different from color mixing principles learned in painting classes and is affected by the type of fiber being used. The tactile sensation of a particular fiber can be modified by the choice of weaving structure, the fibers I chose to combine with it, and the method I use to finish it. Thus, the final result cannot be predicted before the project is finished. I love the final step where the true beauty of the design is revealed.

