



On Higher Ground

Mabel Luhan Lodge

ON HIGHER GROUND

Taos, New Mexico
October 6-10th, 2014

**EXPLORE THE CREATIVE PATH WITH KNITTING. SPINNING.
CROCHET, WEAVING. GARMENT DESIGN**

Join Jane Thornley, Faith Welsh, Debra Lambert, Monte McBride, and Stacey Budge-Kamison, foremost spinners, weavers, designers, and art-to-wear knitters, as we converge at Mabel Luhan Lodge for five days of cadres and workshops

exploring fiber art at its highest. Learn how to design your own art yarn and bring it alive in a fest of color and texture. Weave it to life on a table loom, in a wall-hanging, or a piece of wearable art. Create your own designs, plumb your creative spirit, and see how high you can fly. Everything that excites you about textile art converges here. Our mission is to set your artistic spirit free. Join us at the artistic mecca in the clear air of Taos, New Mexico.



Where are you on the creative fiber art continuum-- beginner, intermediate or well on your way? We have something for everyone, no matter what your expertise or comfort level. On Higher Ground is no ordinary workshop/retreat and like no other cadre Jane Thornley has ever offered. This is more like a constellation of fiber stars clustering together to offer inspiration, confidence, instruction, and support around a collective passion for all things creatively fiber. Knitting, weaving, spinning, garment building, and art journaling, when combined, will lead participants to new heights to help liberate their own creative core no matter what the preferred medium. Try something new or develop new abilities with your preferred medium and stretch your creativity even higher.

Besides being located at the Mabel Luhan Lodge in Taos, itself a magnetic draw for its historic and spiritual significance (read about Mabel and Tony Luhan: the socialite who fell in love with a Native American Chief), the five-day event takes place directly following the Taos Wool Festival so you can easily attend the wool fest and then join us for uplifting fiber fusion.

You may become so creatively high, that you end up flying on inspiration for weeks and months to come. Think of this as your art stimulus package. It is not just for experienced knitters but beginners, too. Everyone who loves fiber will benefit and, when not taking workshops, savor this mountain retreat with its funky, artistic spirit, and Native American presence with great restaurants and cool places to stay.

The event is an enhanced cadre composed of Jane Thornley and other fiber artists who share her approach to fiber liberation. Every registrant receives two days' worth of workshops from Jane Thornley who provides the overview for the event as well as weaves in any loose ends and provides additional embellishment on the final day plus their choice of one other full-day workshop. All other workshops by other instructors are available at an additional fee as indicated in the course descriptions.

Jane will lead knitters through two workshop days, one at the beginning and the other at the end of the five days, focusing on inspired knitting without a pattern. She will not only teach a suite of stitches and techniques for free-range knitting, but will also illustrate how to knit with vision and how to launch a design with a single shape or maybe no shape at all. It's a matter of spirit. On the final day, she leads you on finishing and embellishing techniques while guiding you towards total design liberation.

Whatever unfolds on your needles through Jane's workshop on the first day can be carried along to her fiber colleagues as they teach you to spin art yarn, weave your own pieces to add to your garment or start something unique, design a piece of wearable art with your knitting and woven pieces, and/or record the creative journey through art journaling. Workshops interconnect and complement one another. Each teacher is an impassioned lover of fiber art and sees it as a way to unleash the human spirit. Though it is not necessary to take all the classes, together they offer a powerful suite of creative instruction to help lift you to higher ground. You will not find a suite of workshops like this offered anywhere else!

Base fee: \$475 which includes 2 workshops with Jane plus your choice of one other full-day workshop from the other leaders. Fee does not include accommodation or food. Details on accommodations to follow.

Fiber adventures offered across these 5 days include:

- Free-range, spirit knitting without a pattern to create your own, unique and beautiful garment
- Spinning your own yarn using a drop-spindle to add to this garment or to add to your knitting/crochet/weaving in general
- Knitter's Loom weaving to create a piece of fabulous fabric to include in your art-to-wear or to embellish your home
- Inspired garment building techniques for knitting, weaving, or crochet

- Garment embellishment including how to bead, bobble, and fringe
- Art Journaling to free up your creative spirit and record the voyage along the way

***REGISTRATION IS LIMITED**

The classes offered are:

DAY 1, MONDAY, OCT. 6th

Jane Thornley: ON HIGHER GROUND LAUNCH * Morning and afternoon INCLUDED IN FEE



This class will include the entire Higher Ground group. Come meet your instructors for the week as well as the rest of the fiber free-flyers.

One full day of loosening the knots tying you to traditional patterns to fly free-form with a garment of your own design. We'll start with a single shape and begin building from here in surprising ways using a range of stitches. Think of this as creating your foundation for your art-to-wear garment. All other classes complement this session by teaching you ways to make your own yarn plus weave or fuse in other components into this emerging garment.

Class supplies: bring a mix of approximately 200 yards of yarn in a variety of textures and weights plus a range of needles (straight or circular) in US 8-13. Participants are asked to bring a squared, a rectangular, or triangular piece of knitting of any size or shape to the class. This piece will be the launch pad for your emerging design.

* All registrants take this workshop plus the PERFECT ENDINGS workshop on Friday, also by Jane, plus one more full-day session of their choosing, all of which are included in the base fee of \$485. All other workshops are at an additional cost of \$100 for a full day of instruction.



DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7th

WEAVING 1: Debra Lambert: WEAVING ON THE KNITTERS LOOM-- TABLE LOOM WEAVING . FULL DAY. Morning and afternoon Main teaching space



Love texture but aren't sure how to bring it all together? Weaving is a great way to show off the textures of handspun artyarn, commercial yarns, fiber pieces, and locks of fiber. Debra will show how easy it is to loom up your own woven pieces to incorporate into your On Higher Ground creation or from which to make a scarf, table runner, pillows, or purses--almost anything! All on a small table loom called 'the knitters loom'.

When creating your woven piece, you can add anything that expresses your own creative path. Debra uses leather strips, Spanish moss, feathers, and the gorgeous art yarns you'll find offered by the spinners attending, or which you make yourself in Monte and Faith's classes. Add these fabulous yarns to make your own sculptural designs.

Debra will have selections of many different yarns and other additional materials for each student to use for creating their sculptural panel and each loom will be set up to start their weaving journey with endless boundaries.

Warning: this kind of designing with fiber is addictive. Luckily Debra will also sell these looms to help sustain your new addiction.

TWIST & WRAP Pt. 1 (Spinning): Monte McBride & Faith Welsh of Fiber Fusion Taos : FULL DAY. Morning and afternoon Log Cabin



Monte and Faith of Fiber Fusion Taos has developed an innovative way of using the suspended spindle to produce hand spun art yarn. You do not need prior spinning experience or expensive equipment. Our spindling kit which includes a high whorl drop spindle, hand dyed roving, and assorted textural fiber elements is our gift to each student to get started (a \$25 value).

This is not traditional spinning... it is a portable, easy and fun way to produce unique yarn that will enhance all the creations you have in your imagination. We will learn to add “bits and bobs”, ribbons and fabric to the yarns, which give added

dimension and texture. You will be simply amazed at the immediate results you can achieve with this technique in a few hours.

Afternoon:

TWIST and WRAP, part 2

The afternoon session continues our exploration into our new-found skill. We will include a forum on fiber and how to choose roving, plus a discussion on the properties of different fibers and how they spin up.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th

ART JOURNALING: Fiber Art Inspirations Through Art journaling
(inspiration booster!) By Stacey Budge-Kamison FULL DAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON Log cabin



Stacey is not talking about the mixed media books so prevalent online but an actual working creative "brain dump" that will help you aggregate new ideas for your

work. It is this practice that has taken her through her 20+ year career as an art director and that she still uses today as a fiber artist. She will teach you a new way of developing your visual language that is born out of your right brain creative self, not your analytical brain. A method that will keep your ideas fresh and flowing and keep you in touch with your ever-evolving creative style. She has added special material to help capture all the inspirations of this cadre so they will be available for you for your future projects.

In this workshop you will learn:

- Straight-up info on how Stacy uses art journals to produce creative work (and it is WAY easier than you think)
- Some of her favorite mixed media techniques that help her express that creativity more fully
- Tips for staying creative and avoiding blocks
- Ways to incorporate your journal work into your super-busy life
- The real way to use your right brain and intuition to make art
- Get information for cataloging your ideas for future use
- Information for incorporating your journal with your digital tools (Hey she's an iPhone girl too)

Blank Journals will be available for purchase and art materials will be available throughout the cadre to capture all your inspirations. You will get worksheets and access to online resources to stay inspired to continue journaling after the cadre.

Just pure fun, creative time for YOU that works with your busy schedule. What you will come away with is a new way to step into your creativity and become the artist that you are meant to be.

WEAVING : Debra Lambert: WEAVING ON THE KNITTERS LOOM-- TABLE LOOM WEAVING . THE VOYAGE CONTINUES . Morning with full day option
Main teaching space



While this workshop can be a repeat of the first offering and suitable for first-timers, Debra will also work with those who took Tuesday's class but want to continue their weaving journeys. Building on what you've learned the first day or for those comfortable enough to dive into table weaving at the next level, Debra will guide you further on the weaving journey. Today she focuses on all the techniques she's learned as well as explain how different looms can take you in different directions: the triangle loom, the Saori loom. Debra is the mistress of high-textured weaving and here she will show you all the directions your new passion can lead.

ART CROCHET: Debra Lambert. Afternoon Only Main Teaching Space

Debra knows a ton of neat techniques for crocheting art yarn onto knitted or woven pieces. Her hand-spun scarves and wraps elicit so much excitement in places like Santa Fe that they practically call her in off the street to request that she make items for the shops. Learn her unique and free-spirited crochet tips here.

* Weavers who attended the morning session with Debra may extend their morning into a whole day at the knitter's loom while listening in to Debra's crochet wizardry.



DAY 3: THURSDAY, OCT. 9th



A. SPINNING 2: FAITH WELSH & MONTE MCBRIDE. TRADITIONAL SPINNING ON THE DROP SPINDLE. FULL DAY morning and afternoon (log Cabin)

In this expanded session, Faith and Monte will teach you the traditional way of using the high whorl hand spindle. No further equipment necessary here, because you will already have your spindle provided in our gift spinning kit. In addition, we are so pleased to offer a variety of beautiful hand-dyed roving by Ani of Widdershin Wool Works, a consummate Taos fiberista for your purchasing pleasure.

The morning will focus on mastering techniques that will make your spindles fly. You will come away with a single of your own making which you can embellish with plying other fibers or just use as is. The afternoon session will take you further into plying techniques that truly allow your creative side to expand!

The focus for afternoon session will be on how to ply the singles spun in the morning with innovative materials as silk ribbon, bits of lace, recycled fiber strips, beads, found objects and more. We will finish the session with a forum on incorporating your finished art yarns into your creative pieces.

Gift Spinning kit provided

B. Inspired Garment Building by Stacey Budge-Kamisen. FULL DAY Main Teaching Space



Love to create beautiful inspired fabrics, but feel intimidated about designing successful garments with your fiber art? Stacy has developed a method of pattern design that is so easy and hassle free. It is perfect not just for inspired knitting, but

crochet, weaving even felting. This approach differs from Jane's draping style but, when combined, offer a powerful suite of tools for designing your own pieces of wearable art.

In this class you will learn:

How to build a pattern easily using gridded fabrics

Make a sweater that will fit you perfectly

Spend more time in the fiber art you love, less time in pattern math

Composition your fiber art to work with your body

Tips and tricks for hassle free shaping on the fly

In this class, we will design a pattern of a perfect garment fit for you, and begin applying your fiber art of choice to your pattern. Take your fiber art to the next level and make garments you love.

DAY 5, FRIDAY OCT 10th

A& B For all participants: KNITTING2: PERFECT ENDINGS : FULL DAY JANE THORNLEY Main Teaching space



It's been an amazing week and by now, something wondrous is evolving inside your hands and imaginations. Here we bring it all together -- all those woven pieces, bits of incredible knitted shapes, art yarns, ideas for shaping garments, art journal explorations--into the whole by exploring next steps. This workshop helps you guide you to completion.

The day will focus on using short rows to shape, fit, and adapt disparate pieces into a garment whole, fitting onto the body (yours), as well as ways to embellish your creations in fun new ways using beads, bobbles, fringes, or just letting your ends just hang out.

OUR FIBER LEADERS



JANE THORNLEY, Nova Scotia, Canada
Jane Thornley.com

Jane takes inspiration seriously. Besides designing 'non-patterns' for the creatively restless knitter, she runs a subscription club for knitters called The Inspired Knitters Club and offers workshops to adventurous knitters all over North America and the world. Her free-range style is based on a no-mistakes approach to knitting and she loves nothing more than to guide knitters away from standard, follow-the-rules patterns. Liberation is at the core of all that moves her because only freedom releases you to become all you are.

Besides knitting, Jane also writes novels, designs jewelry, and travels whenever she can. Her cadres gather like-minded people in gorgeous places to celebrate fiber in all its glory.

In a past life, Jane was a superintendent of schools as well as a teacher and librarian. She broke free of her big desk job in 2007 and hasn't stopped flying since.

FIBER FUSION TAOS: FAITH WELSH & MONTE McBRIDE
Taos, New Mexico

<http://www.fiberfusiontaos.com>



FAITH

Faith started out as a painter who knits, a knitter who paints: <http://www.faithwelsh.com> One day, inspired by dear friend and mentor, Jane Thornley, I questioned, what if I start using fiber in the same manner that I use paint? I approach my fiber pieces using the same constructs as painting: color, value, chroma, shape, texture and how they fit together. My work has evolved into using intarsia, short rows and couching to create both functional freeform garments and non functional pictorial pieces in fiber. I wanted to get away from the usual linear progression of knitting to create undulating landscape inspired passages in my work, et voila!

In addition to mixing colors as I go along, I often switch from knitting to traditional crochet, to Tunisian crochet, back and forth in a given piece. The result tends to create a personal surface that is rich in textural interest.

Things really started taking off for me when Monte introduced me to her “poquitos”. I love using this unique, amazing core spun both for color inspiration and textural interest

My work is represented at Origins in Santa Fe and my studio is open by appointment.

Faith Welsh
Snow Lion Studios
1005 Witt Road
Taos, NM 87571
[575 613 2859](tel:5756132859)

MONTE

Monte began her formal art training in Los Angeles at Chouinard Art Institute in the late 1950s. After two years and with a strong background in the basics she began to explore outside the traditional arts. An interest in “crafts” with a longstanding fascination for textiles took shape. For the ensuing years she was immersed in fiber arts and has continued to be involved with fiber, in one form or another, ever since.

She has been a freelance designer of handwoven fabric for interiors, a restorer of Navajo textiles, the designer/owner of IAT Design Studio, makers of specialty handwoven fashion which sold internationally both wholesale and retail and always a spinner supplying fiber artists with inspired yarns.

“I am intrigued and driven by fiber! I think that is because I am intrigued by history. As humans our history is intimately connected with textiles. Our very survival and progression as a civilization depended, to a large degree, on animal skins and then spinning, weaving, knitting, etc.

Sometimes I lie in bed in the morning just contemplating the weave structure of my sheets. Crazy, yes but that is the nature of obsession. I know not everyone is obsessed with the world of fiber but I hope, through my work, to give the gift of awareness.”



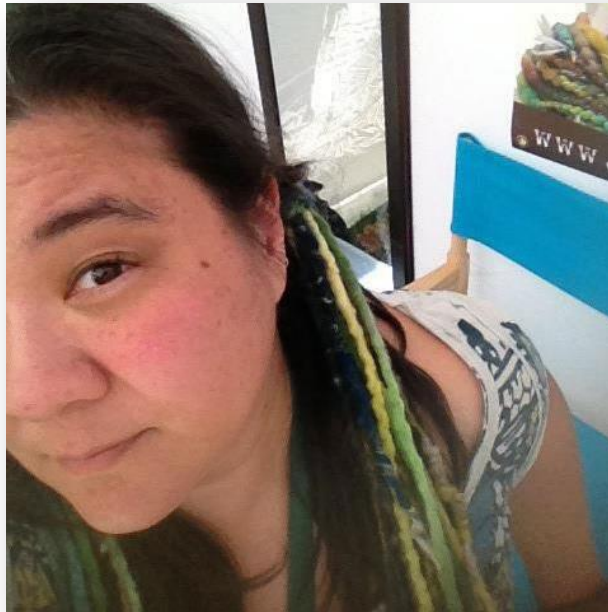
Debra Lambert
Picasso Moon, Sarasota, Florida

Color and Fiber has become a lifestyle for Debra Lambert, aka picassosmoon. Free -range knitting led to free-range spinning and then to weaving.....the fiber journey is endless. Debra has a degree in interior design and taught art for 9 years and really hasn't stopped teaching since, only now it's adults her are drawn to her for inspiration. Anyone entering her shop, Picasso Moon in Sarasota, might be invited to try their hand at any number of creative fibering. Creating one-of-a-kind art to wear and home decor with hand spun art yarn has become the back bone of her fiber bubble but she's been inviting people along for the ride. Weaving is only one of Debra's many textile passions.

Picasso's Moon is a small, eclectic fiber boutique located in the downtown area of Sarasota, Fl. with the beach only five minutes away. The passion of fiber, texture and color is created with endless boundaries and sharing this aspect of designing with fiber is so addicting. Come share the experience that will always make you smile

Stacey Budge-Kamison AKA UrbanGypZ

<http://www.urbangypz.com>



Fiber artist Stacey Budge-Kamison AKA UrbanGypZ lives and makes handmade yarn in Asheville NC. Her business UrbanGypZ Artisan Yarn (<http://www.urbangypz.com>) has a dedicated studio in Biltmore Forest, But, she can also be found knitting in public, hammering out her latest e-course at local cafés in Asheville and spinning yarns in her booth at her favorite arts festivals. A designer at heart, Stacey has decided that her mission is to help fellow knitters, crocheters, weavers and felters embrace their own style and creativity by exploring fiber art as a part of their everyday life. Inspired by handmade yarns, she loves the challenge of embracing the unpredictability of her medium and works to design in the moment, inch by inch as she creates fabrics that showcase the each yarn's unique properties. Stacey has been designing and tech editing patterns professionally since 2002. A former art director, Stacey has been professionally working with color and design for more than 20 years and is thrilled to take her love of fiber arts and love of print media design into new offerings for her fiber art customers.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Base price: \$475

Choose one other full-day workshop besides Jane's (included) as part of that fee and pay for others you want to join for \$100.00 per class.

***Please use Registration Form here to register and make your payment:**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

***Please contact me if you would like to make a deposit only for this event**

LOGISTICS IN TAOS

ACCOMODATIONS

All rooms at Mabel Luhan Lodge are now booked but plenty of inns, B&B's, and motels exist around the area at all price ranges. Some are within walking distance. Check here for options: <http://www.taosbandbinns.com/>

GETTING THERE

The closest airport is in Santa Fe but I'm guessing you don't want to by-pass Santa Fe anyway. Many fly into Albuquerque, hire a car and drive the hour to Santa Fe, stay overnight, and drive the hour up to Taos the next day but you can also fly into Santa Fe's small airport and drive from there. It's an easy drive, in any case, with the gorgeous New Mexican scenery to keep you company.