

Betty Vera

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Fiber technology dates back to the Neanderthals, but today, weavers create both functional objects and fine art. I enjoy being part of this ancient tradition, though I use 21st-century weaving technology to express my artistic vision.

Originally a painter, I have brought a painterly approach to my textile art. I especially like to exploit color interactions between warp and weft in creating my woven imagery. I often use warp painting in my work, as well as hand-painting and surface embroidery.

Inspiration comes from my environment, both natural and urban. When something catches my eye—an unusual vantage point, an odd juxtaposition, or an interesting surface—I take quick snapshots. Back in the studio, I work from these photographs to develop my tapestries.

I currently weave on my four handlooms—two mechanical and two computer-assisted—and also work with fabricators to produce my large Jacquard tapestries on their computer-assisted industrial looms. As part of my hand-finishing process, some of these Jacquard tapestries incorporate hand painting with dyes and textile inks, as well as some hand embroidery.