

METRICS FOR WEAVERS

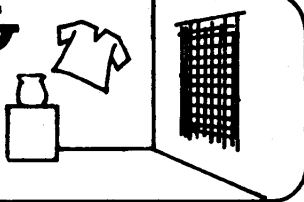
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by Peggy Dokka

In dealing with the field of dyeing, the metric system can be a great help in several ways. First, as we have seen with linear measurement, the metric system of weights facilitates computation. The basic metric weight is the gram (about 28 grams to the ounce). Think of a gram as equivalent to a raisin or a paper clip in weight. One thousand grams is a kilogram.

Suppose your dye recipe calls for a ratio between 2% and 6% of dye powder to fiber. In the system we use now, this would call for considerable fractional arithmetic. In metric, of course this would be between 20 and 60 grams of dye per kilo of fiber. The second advantage of the metric system is that accurate balance scales are more readily available in this system. The average inexpensive scale for weighing ounces will not weigh accurately below about half an ounce. Of course this point is not valid if you do have an accurate balance type ounce scale, but for small amounts of mordants—perhaps ten grams of iron for saddening a dyepot for example, the weighing process is made easier in metric. If you are interested in using the metric weight system, a good reference is Edward Worst's Foot Power Loom Weaving. This book has an excellent chapter on natural dyes, with all recipes in grams. Next month's article will deal with a metric system of yarn sizes. It will be the last in this series of articles, unless one of you readers has another thought on this subject which you would like me to discuss.

SHOWS & EXHIBITS



by Suzy Sewell

JERRY AND RAQUEL RUDQUIST

The Suzanne Kohn Gallery, 1690 Grand, St. Paul, will be showing the work of two local artists, Jerry and Raquel Rudquist. Raquel is trained in architecture and has been weaving for many years. Their work will be shown April 3-30, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

LYNN KLEIN

Guild member Lynn Klein will be having a one woman show during the month of April at the First Unitarian Society, 900 Mt. Carve Ave., Mpls. Works included will be from her recent Masters Show at the University, for which she dyed her own yarns in order to experiment with the spatial qualities of color fields. The relativity of color can be visualized in the vanishing stripes in many pieces. The Society is open daily from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Enter through the office door to the right of the main entrance.

FRAME LOOM PROJECTS SHOW

Examples of weavings done by the Guild's legion of Rigid Heddle Frame loom weavers will decorate the Guild rooms

from March 14-April 14. The exhibit runs the gamut from beginners samplers to open work, textures and double weave pieces and illustrates the wide range of possibilities with this simple loom.

THE AMERICAN ARTS: A CELEBRATION

At the Minneapolis Institute of Art through May 2, this exhibit emphasizes the breadth and diversity of American artistic production in all media from Colonial times to the present.

a
tune
of
our times

looms
needlepoint
macrame
hooked rugs

stitchery
knitting
crochet

nimble finger needle art

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Jenny Yellowleaf

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