

Kansas City Young Audiences Teacher Program Guide

Asian Textiles

Artist: Jamie Root

Workshop Description

Inside this guide:

Workshop
Description

Educational

Artist Bio

Vocabulary

List of Resources

Post-Workshop
Activities

Contact KCYA for
more information on
this and other
programs.

816-531-4022
www.kcya.org

Asian textiles have long played an important role in defining social status, village origin, and occupation. This is still true among the minority tribes of Western China, Southeast Asia, parts of the Philippines, Korea, and Nepal. Asian textiles, particularly silk, have also been important to Asian economies.

Jamie Root will introduce students to the textiles of Japan, China and Southeast Asia during this colorful residency.

Students will explore examples of fabrics from these countries. Also included will be information about the Hmong, Kimono, rice-paper cloth, invention of the spinning wheel in China, development of silk, and current development in sericulture.

Jamie will discuss the importance of the Dragon in Chinese and Japanese clothing. Students will design their own dragon and stencil their own silk banner, or weave their own brightly-colored floral designs on circular looms of card-



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Investigate Asian cultures and their long history of weaving, dyeing, and fabric design
- Examine the historic and modern-day Asian textile industry

Behavioral Studies:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflect its values and beliefs

Geography

- Knows how places and regions serve as culture symbols

Special Points of Interest:

Asian textiles, though functional, vividly symbolize cultural heritage, including the religions and family traditions, of the community

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Large tables; screen or AV cart

Materials Cost: \$15 per class

Artist Bio: Jamie Root

Growing up in a talented and creative family, Jamie was encouraged to express her artistic tendencies in paint and sculpture. She continued to explore new media while earning a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science.

Jamie's teaching career started serendipitously during an internship in the exhibits department at the Kansas City Museum. She was drafted to de-

velop and teach history and nature classes to preschoolers. More recently, she spent 11 years teaching life sciences in the public schools.

A single lamb purchased in 1991 for these classes began a new passion. Wool from her flock of sheep is the material of her art now. She is a member of the Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City and a known fiber art enabler.



Jamie Root

Vocabulary

Brocade: an elaborate weave structure with raised designs on a fabric

Cartoon: a drawing placed behind the warp to determine the design

Loom: a frame to hold warp threads under tension for weaving of cloth

Sericulture: the production of raw silk by raising silkworms

Tapestry: a woven picture, often woven on a vertical loom

Warp: lengthwise threads on a loom under tension

Weft: threads on a shuttle woven over and under the warp to make a web

Post-Workshop Activities

1. Bring in a professional storyteller to share Asian Folktales, including *The Crane Maiden* or *The Weaving of a Dream* by Marilee Heyer
2. Watch a video about silkworm sericulture, examine silk cocoons and examples of cloth
3. Write Haikus describing the beauty of the cloths shown in the workshop



List of Resources

BOOKS

Asian Costumes and Textiles from the Bosphorus to Fujiyama: The Zaira and Marcel Mis Collection
by Mary Hunt Kahlenberg
Skira International Corporation;
(November 1, 2001) ISBN: 8881189712

Textiles of Southeast Asia: Tradition, Trade and Transformation
by Robyn Maxwell, Mattiebelle Gittinger
Periplus Editions;
Revised edition (July 1, 2003)
ISBN: 0794601049

Flowers, Dragons, and Pine Trees: Asian Textiles in the Collection of the Spencer Museum of Art by Mary Dusenberry
Hudson Hills Press; (September 2004)
ISBN: 1555952380