

## **Access Arts' Fibers Department Artist-in-Residence Description**

*Please be sure to read the general information pdf about the Artist-in-residence program.*

Access Arts hosts spacious, well-lit Fibers studios on its campus. The classroom area is a very social place, with classes ongoing and students making use of extra practice times. This atmosphere promotes discussion in a range of topics and a sharing of ideas and inspiration between instructors and students. The smaller studios provide space for quiet reflection and individual focus. Artists are encouraged to spend time in both spaces in order to provide guidance to students as well as produce a solid body of their own work.

In the Weaving department, we have more than 60 looms, including floor looms (4-shaft, 6-shaft, and 8-shaft), table looms, inkle looms, and rigid heddle looms. We also have sewing machines, drafting tables, light boxes, and a variety of tools suitable for fabric arts. There is also a studio suitable for paper arts, with sinks, drying racks, screens, and large table spaces.

The local fibers community offers many diverse opportunities. Access Arts has a long-standing relationship with the Columbia Weavers & Spinners Guild, a varied group of more than 100 fiber artists. Many of these artists enjoy collaborating with Access Arts Resident Artists, and are eager to work out community projects and teaching workshops. One of the benefits to Access Arts' program is this collaboration and how it enables students to experience a diverse range of techniques. This network also is a benefit to Resident Artists in that it allows a greater range of options for developing their work.

### **Requirements of Fibers Artists-in-Residence:**

In exchange for the benefits received, artists will work 10 hours per week for Access Arts. The Executive Director will supervise the artists in the program and assign their responsibilities.

Duties may include:

- Presentations -  
During the residency the artist will present a program on their chosen subject to the Columbia Weavers and Spinners Guild, the adult weaving classes, or the general public.
- Develop a project and set up a sample loom (or other appropriate sample) representative of their chosen subject for students' use and will instruct interested students at prearranged times.
- Display one or more completed pieces resulting from their residency in the Access Arts gallery.
- Help to maintain well-functioning studios -  
The Artists in Residence will work closely with the Fibers Instructors to provide an efficient, safe work environment and maintain an inventory of adequate supplies. Upon occasion, Artists may be asked to assist with other tasks as needed to keep the studios running smoothly. It is important that Artists have good communication skills to coordinate these tasks with the Instructors.
- Representing Access Arts at in-house activities and community events -  
Artists are expected to participate in community events such as workshops and

demonstrations that are for the promotion of the Fibers program. One such event typically occurs each month, and Artists-in-Residence share the responsibility of representing Access Arts in a suitable capacity (i.e. demonstrating techniques or assisting visiting artists with presentations).

**Benefits Specific to Fibers Artists-in-Residence:**

In return for 40 hours of service to Access Arts each month, Artists-in-Residence receive:

- Opportunity to network with diverse fibers art community connected to Access Arts
- If Artist in Residence is a weaver, he/she shall have exclusive use of a four shaft floor loom in the weaving studio or, if a non-weaver, he/she shall have another suitable workspace for pursuing paper arts, sculpture, etc..
- Use of shared, locked studio space
- Guidance of the Access Arts master weaver
- One year membership in the Columbia Weavers and Spinners Guild
- Use of the Guild library resources

These are basic guidelines. It is understood that specific details will need to be arranged between the artist, the Executive Director and the Head of the Fibers Program. All final decisions will be made by the Executive Director with input from the Artist and the Program Head.