

# 2025 Biennial Awards

## Category Ribbon Awards

These categories are dependent on the styles and number of submissions.

Shawls

Scarves

Towels

Household Items

Table Accessories

Fashion Accessories

Rugs

Wall Hangings

Bed Coverings

Clothing

Off Loom, includes:

- Baskets
- Kumihimo
- Triaxial Weaving
- 3-Dimensional, etc.

## Special Awards

Members' (Peoples') Choice (\$100)

Best Work by a Novice Weaver (weaving fewer than 3 years) (\$100)

Best Use of Color (\$100)

Most Artistic Design (\$100)

Outstanding Technical Merit (\$100)

Best Use of Twill Most Artistic Design (\$100)

Outstanding Technical Merit (\$50)

Hand Dyeing Award (\$50)

Hand Spun Award (\$50)

### ***EXCELLENCE IN RIGID HEDDLE WEAVING AWARD***

- Any entry woven on a rigid heddle loom will be eligible for this award which is sponsored by Ginger Balch and In Sheep's Clothing
- \$50 gift certificate to Ginger's store "In Sheep's Clothing", located in Torrington, CT

### ***EXCELLENCE IN REP WEAVE***

This award is to recognize an outstanding Rep Weave piece. Award criteria includes:

- Must be a work of "Traditional Rep Weave," meaning using two (2) different weight wefts and a closely sett warp.
- Must show excellence in technical skills, good finishing, and care in presentation.
- Must exemplify good relationship between design and function; the material must be suitable to the function of the piece.
- Must show originality in the design and express a personal approach to the technique.
- Must show effective use of color in relationship to this particular weave.
- Must not have won the award in Biennial Shows 2019 or 2023.
- \$75 gift certificate

### ***GLORIA NEVINS OVERSHOT AWARD (\$100)***

Gloria Nevins was a co-chair of Area 1 of the Handweavers' Guild of Connecticut, an outstanding weaver, and a special friend to many people in the Guild. She died of breast cancer in October of 1995. Her friends financed a special award in her name.

The special award is titled "Most Appealing Overshot Piece" because it was overshot coverlets which first excited Gloria and got her interested in learning to weave. She became a skilled weaver who delighted in precise technical excellence, and she was a gifted artist with an extraordinary eye for color and creativity. She appreciated the traditional style of overshot, as well as the more innovative use of color in overshot weaves. This award is given to a piece of overshot weaving that demonstrates these qualities.

### ***JO PARSONS SURFACE DESIGN AWARD (\$100)***

Jo Parsons was a Guild President and NEWS Board Rep. She was also the program chair for Connecticut, taught at NEWS, and generally made herself available when we needed her. She would often invite textile speakers to her home for impromptu meetings with local weavers, providing education and support for the weaving community.

The JPSDA is given to recognize outstanding surface design on a woven item. Surface design in hand weaving refers to the creative techniques and processes used to enhance or manipulate the visual and tactile aspects of the woven fabric. It focuses on the patterns, textures, and visual elements of the fabric's surface, achieved either during the weaving process or as a post-weaving treatment. Surface design in hand weaving bridges the gap between functionality and artistry, transforming simple fabric into a unique piece of art.

### ***WEFTOVERS AWARD (\$50)***

This award is specifically for the most creative use in weaving of weftover yarns. The criterion for this award is that at least 50% of the woven item must be weftover yarns. All entries using weftover yarns must have a card with samples of the weftover yarns attached to the entry along with the usual entry label.

### ***WILDA HULSE BABY BLANKET AWARD (\$50)***

This award is in memory of long-time Guild member Wilda Hulse and honors her lifetime commitment to foster care. All entries that are specified as baby blankets will be eligible for this award.

## **COMPLEX WEAVERS AWARD**

The Award is to be given for excellence in weaving a piece original in both design and execution with a complex interlacement of threads and fibers beyond plain weave. Workshop samples, kits or pieces woven under supervision or taken directly from published works are not eligible for the Award. There is no requirement that the piece must be woven on a designated number of shafts or on a multi-shaft loom.

Complex Weavers is pleased to announce an award to be given for excellence in complex weaving at juried shows and exhibits featuring handwoven items. One way that CW encourages interest and sharing of information on complex weaving is by acknowledging and publicizing excellent work done by talented individuals in areas of complex interlacements through our award.

This award is to be given for excellence in weaving that meets the following criteria:

- The winning piece should be **original** in both design and execution with a complex interlacement of threads and fibers beyond plain weave.
- There is no requirement that pieces must be woven on a designated number of shafts or on a multiple shaft loom, with the following limitations:
  1. Pieces taken directly from published works are **not eligible** for the award. This is a common occurrence, so please be sure of the originality of the piece.
  2. Kits are **not eligible** for the award.
  3. Workshop samples or pieces woven under supervision are **not eligible** for the award.

If you feel no piece fits the above criteria, do not give the award. The award includes a certificate, a woven ribbon, and one year membership (new or renewal) in Complex Weavers.

## ***HGA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FIBER ART***

The HGA Award honors an outstanding exhibited work of fiber art, specifically handweaving, hand spinning, dyeing, basketry, felting, and related fiber arts. It is a prestigious award and may be presented only to work which clearly demonstrates excellence. This award is not given for demonstrations or contests. If no entry meets the outlined criteria, the HGA award must be returned to the HGA Award Chair.

The HGA Award includes a certificate of accomplishment and a handwoven ribbon. Award winners receive further acclaim through publication in Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot, HGA's quarterly award-winning magazine, and an opportunity to have their work appreciated by an international readership of fiber artists, enthusiasts, and collectors.

### Award criteria:

- Must be limited to a work of handweaving, spinning, dyeing, basket weaving, or felting.
- Must embody a unique interpretation, demonstrate a fresh, individual approach, and express personal creativity.
- Must exemplify a complete understanding of both aesthetic and functional considerations.
- Must demonstrate excellence in technical skills.

## ***HANDWOVEN'S "PRACTICAL WEAVING FOR THE HOME" AWARD OF EXCELLENCE***

The Practical Weaving for the Home Award honors originality, craftsmanship, and design success in functional textiles that enhance the beauty of the home.

This award is for **functional** weaving **for the home**. This does not include wall hangings or decorative crafts. Our intention is to reward well-designed, excellent functional weaving that is otherwise overlooked.

### Award Criteria:

- The piece must be handwoven. Trims or embellishments in other needle or thread techniques may be an element of the woven cloth but should not be the primary element.
- The piece's **primary purpose** must be **functional**.
- Items which qualify for an award include table linens, pillows, throws, curtains, towels, floor rugs, upholstery, blankets, etc. This is not an exclusive list, but it suggests appropriate types of items.
- To win a prize, a handwoven piece must qualify in ***all*** the following four categories:
  1. The piece must exhibit exceptional sensitivity to basic design principles. Patterns should be used in fresh or unexpected ways. The design might have what we like to call "an element of surprise" or something that is unexpected that makes the view want to look further.
  2. The materials must be suited to the function of the piece.
  3. The overall design should have optimum sett and beat, and a perfect hand for its intended purpose. The woven item must exhibit a mastery of craft and an understanding of materials.
  4. The overall design should be pleasing and appropriate for the piece.

### ***KATIE TURNER 'BEST USE OF STRIPES' AWARD (\$75)***

This award is in honor of Katie Turner, who was a Guild member for 40+ years. Katie was an accomplished weaver and won many awards at various venues and judged competitions. There was no one structure at which Katie excelled, as she was a master of all. One of Katie's favorite things to weave was tartan cloth. In recognition of this, this award will be given for excellence in the use of stripes in a handwoven item.

### ***LUCY AND GENE MORRIS HOUSEHOLD TEXTILE AWARD (\$75)***

This award honors long-time guild member Lucy Morris and her husband Gene. Gene suffers from primary progressive aphasia, which has robbed him of language and the ability to speak. Under the encouraging direction and guidance of Lucy, Gene has created many, many potholders of complex designs which are both beautiful and functional. Many of these potholders were donated to Handweavers' Guild of CT organizations and used as a fund-raiser.

This award is given for a functional household textile that displays excellence in the use of color and design.