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Local Artist Accepted into International Touring Exhibit

Atlanta, Georgia - Katie Strano from Southbury, CT has been accepted into the Handweavers Guild of America's 2023 *Small Expressions* exhibit. In addition, her piece *Exhaling at Platt*, was awarded 1st place in the exhibit. The exhibit features 35 contemporary small-scale artworks by artists from 18 states and 2 countries. The artists in this exhibit create a big impact through small pieces. The Small Expressions exhibit will tour galleries in the United States from July 2023 through June 2024.

The 2023 exhibit is juried by Allyce Wood, a textile artist based in Seattle, Washington, who creates work on a vintage Bergman floor loom, Scandinavian frame looms, a marudai, and a knitting machine. Wood's education and career includes a master's degree from Oslo National Academy of the Arts; studies at the KUNO Digital Jacquard Tapestry program at the University of Bergen; a mentorship with Hilde Hauan Johnsen, and assisting artists Eline Mugaas and Elise Storsveen; and artist residencies at the Praxis Fiber Workshop (Cleveland, Ohio), the Icelandic Textile Center, and Mary Olson Farm.

Artist Biography: Katie Strano is fiber artist focusing on small scale production weaving, and art pieces for her business, Heddle Over Heels. She has worked with regional farmers to create handwoven pieces using their locally grown wool and fibers. In addition, she offers private weaving lessons and is also the floor loom and rigid heddle weaving instructor at

Brookfield Craft Center, in Brookfield, CT. She works out of her home studio in Southbury, CT. More information can be found at heddleoverheels.com



Artist Statement:

Exhaling at Platt is meant to capture a brief moment in time as a simple exhale can allow joy and peace to break through all else. Even if only briefly. I often walk amongst the woods to a small pond where I will sit and watch whatever wildlife and foliage is in season. Layers of anxiousness and stress and worry will shed

away allowing the sky and the water and air to come to shine. Often these quiet soft moments can make huge impacts in both physical and mental wellness, yet are easily overlooked.

Information About Artwork: *Exhaling at Platt* 12" x 12. This piece was woven on a table loom using doubleweave pickup with a third deflected weave layer. The top layer of cloth was woven with a point twill variation, while the bottom layer was woven with a straight twill threading. The top warp layer is natural cotton that has been colored with fabric pens on the loom it was woven in the weft with vintage deadstock silk yarn. The bottom layer is eri silk that was hand-dyed using fiber reactive dyes prior to warping. The weft of the bottom layer is two fine threads of vintage silk yarn. The golden layer in both warp and weft is a vintage silk yarn. The piece was then stitched to a linen canvas that was stretched onto a wooden frame.

Scheduled exhibitions include:

July 5, 2023 – September 3, 2023 at the Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum in La Conner, Washington.

September 21, 2023 – November 9, 2023 at Haywood Community College in Clyde, North Carolina.

November 30, 2023 – February 15, 2024 at Yadkin Valley Fiber Center in Elkin, North Carolina.

March 18, 2024 – May 31, 2024 at Sarratt Gallery at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.