

 OUR ART  
OUR REGION  
OUR TIME



*Untitled (Amana Circles)*

22.5 x 22.5 inches

Handwoven tapestry

Not For Sale

## Deborah Thomas

### Bio

Deborah Thomas creates textiles. Since 2014, her work has focused on tapestry weaving. This interest in tapestry was initially inspired during a visit to Stirling Castle in Scotland where the weavers of West Dean Tapestry Studio were working on reproductions of the Hunt of the Unicorn tapestries. Deborah studied for four years with Louise Maringer, a tapestry artist in the Norwegian tradition. She continues to refine her weaving skills at workshops led by nationally-known tapestry weavers and authors.

While a member of the faculty at the University of Arkansas, Professor Thomas was recognized as an outstanding teacher, receiving, among other honors, the American Taxation Association Teaching Innovation Award and the UA Alumni Association Faculty Achievement Award. Now a professor emerita, she continues that teaching tradition by mentoring tapestry students and assisting with classes sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild.

A native Arkansan, Deborah lives and works east of Fayetteville.

### Artist Statement

I work with yarn, mainly wool. It is satisfying to slowly turn lengths of thread into an image, into a tapestry.

Untitled (Amana Circles) is a fortunate bit of serendipity caused by my desire to avoid waste. I didn't want to waste the warp left on the loom after completing another tapestry. And I didn't want to waste any of my best tapestry yarn for an unplanned project. Instead, I pulled out a bag of scrap blanket ends purchased at the woolen mills of the Amana colonies (black, red and white), supplemented with odd samples of wool and cotton embroidery threads. The lines of the circles are woven using a technique called vertical soumak (or flying shuttle) which I had used only infrequently before, but after weaving this piece, I think I have it down.