



Swan Dive

19.25 x 17.5 inches
Fiber



Emergence

19.25 x 17.5 inches
Fiber

Louise Halsey

Bio

Louise Halsey grew up in Charleston SC, as the daughter of two artists. After completing her undergraduate degree at Sarah Lawrence College, she studied weaving at Arrowmont Craft School, Penland & the University of Georgia. In 2007, she earned her MFA from Goddard College in VT. In the late 1970's, she moved "back to the land" in Johnson County AR, where she and her husband, Stephen Driver, a ceramic artist, built a house, their studios and a gallery, Little Mulberry Gallery. Whether using a floor loom or a small, portable frame loom, her love of color and design are reflected in her work. Textiles from pre-Columbian and Navajo cultures are an influence along with artists from the Bauhaus. Louise has shown at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington DC and has work in the collection of the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Arts & Science Center of Southeast Arkansas, the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum, and the Central Arkansas Library System.

Artist Statement

In my recent work, I am using a technique called wedge weave which originated with the Navajo around 1870. This Navajo style was used for a brief period before their weavings were in demand in the market with its emphasis on straight edges. Most weaving is done row after row horizontally or in pictorial tapestry where the yarns are placed more like areas of paint. Unlike either of these approaches, wedge weave starts with a triangle at one edge and each yarn is placed atop that initial slant or wedge. This method of laying in the weft causes the selvages to move in and out creating a slight zigzag. I am excited that the edges reflect the weaving technique in this unique way, as well as by the energetic movement possible in the tapestry itself. With my love of color and design motivating my work, using wedge weave has opened up new vistas for me.