



Diamonds in the Rough
23.5" x 43" (including fringe)
Handwoven Tapestry
\$2,250

Deborah Thomas

Bio

Deborah Thomas is a fiber artist focusing primarily on tapestry weaving. Deborah studied for four years with Louise Maringer, a tapestry artist in the Norwegian tradition. She continues to refine her weaving skills by attending workshops led by nationally-known tapestry weavers and authors.

Deborah's work was recently recognized by the Midwest Weavers Association. Untitled (Amana Circles) received First Place in tapestry and the Popular Choice award at the 2023 MWA biennial exhibit, A Confluence of Threads, in Des Moines.

Deborah also teaches weaving, passing on what she has learned from her mentors. She leads beginner weaving classes sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild and holds monthly tapestry coaching sessions.

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

Artist Statement

Tapestry weaving, perhaps more than other artistic medium, focuses on building shapes. A tapestry is woven from the bottom to the top of the loom forming units of color that together become an image. Triangles become mountains, squares become buildings, rectangles become doors, ovals become flower petals.

One shape dominates my work in 2022 and 2023 – the Stripe.

The stripes in *Diamonds in the Rough* intertwine to form another shape, diamonds. This work was inspired by a vintage textile in the collection of the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum and woven using unspun and coarsely-spun yarns – yarns most tapestry weavers would say are inappropriate for tapestry weaving. It commemorates the 75th Diamond Anniversary of the founding of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild in West Fork on April 5, 1949. A year-long anniversary celebration with exhibits and programs at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and area libraries will kick off in April 2024.