



Love of Language, English Edition

37 x21 inches
Fiber - Tapestry
NFS

Deborah Thomas

Bio

Deborah Thomas' life-long love of fiber began as a preschooler when her mother first handed her knitting needles. Since 2014, her work has focused on weaving, inspired by watching the weavers of West Dean Tapestry Studio work on reproductions of The Hunt of the Unicorn tapestries for Stirling Castle. Deborah studied for four years with Louise Maringer, a tapestry artist in the Norwegian tradition. She has also attended workshops led by Tommye Scanlin, Susan Iverson and Rebecca Mezoff, among others. She is past president of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild and serves as calendar coordinator for the American Tapestry Alliance. A native Arkansan, Deborah lives and works east of Fayetteville and can be found teaching tapestry classes at Red Scottie Fibers in Eureka Springs

Artist Statement

I work with yarn, mainly wool. It is satisfying to turn bits of colored thread into an image.

Tapestry weaving is a slow and simple process – the weft passes over and under the warp building fabric from the bottom up. But this basic structure is what makes tapestry weaving challenging. A curve must be adapted to the linear grid of warp and weft. Each shape must be planned to provide structural support for the next. A design is fully imagined before the first pass is woven.

Much of my work is influenced by words. A poem or conversation can evoke the concept for a tapestry design. I often weave a written caption into an image. Each tapestry tells a story.

In *Love of Language, English Edition*, the scattered letters of the alphabet are presented in the same proportion as they appear in the English language. Find twelve e's, but only one z, one x, one q (and yes, there is a hidden message).