



DIMENSIONAL CLOTH: SCULPTURE BY CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE ARTISTS by Andra F. Stanton. Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. 4880 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, Pennsylvania 19310 2018. Hardcover. 251 pages. \$50.00.

Dimensional Cloth: Sculpture by Contemporary Textile Artists is a catalogue of current textile artists. This detailed and comprehensive overview of textile sculpture features seventy-eight working artists. Each featured artist has two to four pages of images, a biography, and an explanation of the artist's intentions. Their works incorporate felting, stitching, assemblage, shibori, beading, sewing, screenprinting, dyeing, weaving, quilting, netting, and more. In addition to these traditional textile techniques, the artists in this book have also discovered their own techniques and processes. Viewing and reading about the artists' personal techniques and ways of approaching fiber is educational, inspiring, and helpful to any textile enthusiast.

Author Andra F. Stanton writes a thorough introduction defining "dimensional fabric art" and reviewing the fiber movement of the 1960's. In this introduction she organizes her catalogue of contemporary textile sculpture into five formal categories. Additionally, Jo Stealey writes a brief historical overview of the origins of fiber art in the foreword.

"Investigating Nature" is a chapter of artists observing nature in their surroundings. These artists are inspired by biology. They mimic, interpret and investigate natural forms, patterns, and processes using a broad scope of materials. Joy Stocksdale's *Rectangles, Triangles, and Curves* is a beautiful abstracted vision of a trellis in a garden using screen printing, cutting, and stiffening of sheer fabric. Her work is reminiscent of Bauhaus tapestry weaving, Jacob Hashimoto, and Wassily Kandinsky's compositions. "Capturing the Ephemeral" contains work which captures fleeting moments that are frozen in time through manipulation of fiber, form, and color. The sculpture in this chapter deals with growth, memory, and time. "Playing With Space" showcases artists whose work is site specific or utilizes three dimensionality with fiber. Beili Liu's *Lure/Wave* contains hundreds of tiny, delicate discs of charred red silk organza suspended in a huge, dark space by red threads, connecting the discs to the space they are in. As the photographs of the artwork are stunning, seeing this piece in person would be extraordinary. "Telling a Story" has thirteen artists who all showcase highly expressive, emotionally charged personal narratives in their sculpture. Through color, material, and symbolism, these artists create memorable objects which are packed with information, sharing a story for the viewer to see. Finally, "Take Heed" represents politically driven fiber sculpture. Similar to the content in "Telling a Story," these artists' works shout in protest of abuse of the environment, violence, and social oppression. Regina V. Benson's *Safe Storage* presents a precarious moment made entirely of fabric. Three barrels containing toxic material (with a radioactive symbol to boot), are tumbling downward, destined to spill everywhere. Regina's use of iron oxide on fabric expertly utilizes dyeing techniques to describe an antiquated, metal barrel with chipped yellow paint.

The chapters and artists mentioned above are very well organized in *Dimensional Cloth: Sculpture by Contemporary Textile Artists*. Stanton selected an impressive array of current fiber artists whose work often transcends the normal traditions of textile practices. Her representation of fiber art as it is made today is a fantastic addition to any textile enthusiast's library. Stanton truly represents the rich and varied range of fiber sculpture being made in the world today.

Reviewed by Ben Jones
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