

TEXTILE ARTIST LAURA DEMUTH



Laura received the Gold Medal in Weaving in 2001.

Laura writes: My work in textiles began over thirty years ago when I moved to the country and acquired an eight-harness Glimåkra loom, a spinning wheel and a flock of sheep. Using handspun yarns dyed with local, natural dyes I knit and weave textiles for my home, family and friends. I have always been attracted to traditional textiles and because I live close to Decorah, I have been able to take advantage of the classes and exhibits available at Vesterheim. I am especially interested in stranded and twined knitting, rutevov, rya Telemarksteppe and double-weave.

Currently I have been working to combine double-weave and rya. Several years ago, I became intrigued by a coverlet pictured in *The Woven Coverlets of Norway* by Katherine Larson that combines nonreversible double-weave and rya. I had previously taken a class at Vesterheim from Betty Johannesen on rya weaving, and I went on to weave several rya blankets using eight-harness drafts. I had also woven many double-weave pieces, both reversible and nonreversible. The combination of the two techniques was especially interesting because it is possible to hide the rya knots between the two layers of double-weave, thereby creating a textile with a pick-up design on one surface and pile on the other. Using Rauma Spealsaugarn, I combined the two techniques, and learned to tie the rya knots upside down on the lower surface while I wove the pick-up pattern on the upper surface. The resulting textile was quite sturdy and warm with two distinctively different surfaces.

I would appreciate a dialogue with other weavers who are familiar with the two techniques to further explore a combination of double-weave and rya. Email me at demula01@luther.edu

Laura will teach a class combining rya and doubleweave at Vesterheim July 10-14, 2010.



Double-weave pickup combined with rya. Rauma prydevgarn. 38x56." Photo by Charlie Langton.



Double-weave pickup combined with rya. Rauma prydevgarn. 27x42." Photo by Charlie Langton.