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, rutevev, rya Telemarksteppe and double-weave.

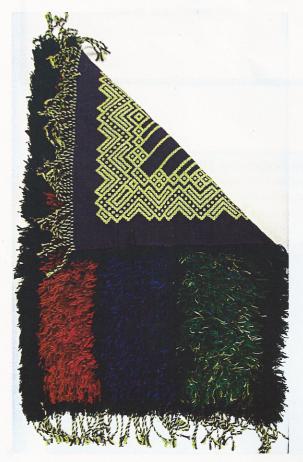
Currently I have been working to combine double-weave and rya. Several years ago, I became intrigued by a coverlet pictured in The Woven Coverlets of Norway by Katherine Larson that combines nonreversible double-weave and rya. I had previously taken a class at Vesterheim from Betty Johannesen on rya weaving, and I went on to weave several rya blankets using eight-harness drafts. I had also woven many doubleweave 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 prydvevgarn. 38x56." Photo by Charlie Langton.



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