

Martha Owen

1384 Tobe Stalcup Road
Murphy, North Carolina 28906
828-361-7535
marthaowenwoolens@gmail.com

“I make custom designed wearables created from hand selected fibers, mostly from my own sheep and rabbits. Each fleece is chosen for cleanliness and softness and treated gently to retain the original luster and spring. All yarns are hand spun, often with hand plucked Angora rabbit hair carded in. All garments are hand knitted and one-of-a-kind. All colors are the natural color of the sheep or rabbit or come from natural sources such as flowers, roots or even bugs.”

Currently: Self-employed fiber artist, farmer, teacher, performer.
Resident Artist in spinning, knitting, dyeing, felting and surface design at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC

Juried Participation and Exhibitions (sample):

SHCG Southern Highland Craft Guild Asheville, NC (member since 1988)
West Virginia Handicraft Guild, Charleston WV.
John C Campbell Craft Shop, Brasstown, NC
Fireside Sale, Unicoi State Park, Helen Ga.
Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands, Asheville, NC
Convergence 2020 Wearable Art Exhibition “Seasons of the Smokies” fashion show rescheduled for 2022, Knoxville, TN
John C. Campbell Folk School Fall Festival festival, Brasstown, NC
Convergence 1998, Atlanta, Georgia
Focus Gallery, Southern Highlands Craft Guild, Asheville, NC
Hunter Museum, Chattanooga, TN
Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
Arrowcraft Shop, Arrowmont Craft School, Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Grove Park Inn, Guild Fashion Show, Asheville, North Carolina
Biltmore Estates, Asheville, North Carolina
The Bascom, Highlands, North Carolina
Project Handmade- Local Cloth Fashion show best use of local fiber, Asheville, NC

Teaching (sample):

John C. Campbell Folk School since 1984
North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN
Wool Week, Shetland, United Kingdom
Maryland Sheep and Wool, West Friendship, MD
Southeast Fiber Forum Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Morganton, North Carolina
Mid-Atlantic Fiber Arts Association Conference, Millersville, PA
Shuttles Spindles and Skeins, Boulder, Colorado
The Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, Decorah IA

The Nordic Museum Seattle, Washington
Seminar Leader, Convergence, Atlanta, Georgia
Peachtree Hand Spinners Guild, Atlanta, Georgia

And many private contract teaching locations for Guilds and groups of friends!
From Whitby Island near Seattle, WA to Aberdeen, Scotland, Boulder CO, etc.

Publications and Videos (sample):

“One-Pot Magic: Surprising Natural Dye Rainbows”, Spin Off Magazine, spring 2021

“Traditional High Wheel Spinning and More”, North Carolina Folklife Institute
video presentation and archive, January, 2021

“Spindle and Wheel” Instagram Live demonstration for Virtual Craft Fair of the
Southern Highlands.

“From Sleeping Beauty to the Industrial Revolution” Virtual demo John c Campbell
Folkschool November 2020

“Persis Grayson: My Fairy Spinmother”, Spin Off Magazine, Spring, 1996

Featured in “Blue Ridge Range: The Gentle Mountains”, National Geographic Society

Featured in Early American Life and Smoky Mountain Living Magazine

Featured in “Handspun Gallery of SOAR Scholarship Recipients”, Spin Off Magazine,
Fall 2002

Featured on “Sew Much More” HGTV Fall 2001

Professional Travel:

Norway with Karin Sandoy Svarstad- felting and short tail sheep

“Celtic Fiber Traditions” fiber visits with spinners, knitters and weavers in Scotland,
Shetland and the Outer Hebrides,

Wooly Trips to Iceland and the Faroe Islands

Multiple visits to traditional knitters, spinners, shepherds and shearers in Denmark,
England, Scotland and Shetland

Additional Study: Many teachers by now! to name a few: Patsy Zowistowski, Persis Grayson,
Pam Strawn, Dale Liles, Jim Liles, Elizabeth Johnston, Judith Mackenzie, Rita Buchanan,
Chad Hagen, BEcky Walker, Beth Beede, Galina Khemleva, Robin Hansen, Anita Luvera
Myer, Arienne Comer, Priscilla Blosser Rainey, Noel Thurner, and Norman Kennedy.