



An Artist Newsletter

by Becka Rahn



Shepherds Harvest Festival (MN's sheep & wool event) and Art A Whirl (nation's largest open studio event) were two weekends in May and I participated in both. Let's just say it's been a busy month!

One really fun thing for me is that I put together a collection of my paper and book art pieces that I had on display at Art A Whirl. It was the first time I have exhibited a group of these pieces and it was so fun to talk to people about them. Just before the weekend I found out that the piece above, called [Two Faced](#), has been accepted into the Handweavers Guild of America's traveling exhibit called *Small Expressions*. It will be touring the

US in 2026-2027, starting in New Orleans in August. It might visit a gallery near you! It's my *first national juried show piece* and I am really excited about that. -- Becca

what's new?



What's this? It's .78% of a new community art piece! I am the "choreographer" for a community paper collage at White Bear Center for the Arts. It's a free drop in activity all next week to make art together! I'll be there periodically throughout the project. [All the details here.](#)



[American Craft Fest](#) at Union Depot St Paul June 13-14. I'm in booth 218 and I have SO MANY NEW THINGS with me. Animal boxes, new fabrics, blank books.



I took my book to the zoo and read to the animals! ([I made a cute reel but the algorithm decided](#) to show it to nobody.)

[You can get your copy to read here.](#)

classes



Becca Rahn
HGA

**JUN 2
4:00
PM ET**

hosted by Handweavers Guild of America

Textiles & Tea

I'm a guest on the HGA Textiles & Tea video podcast on June 2. Free to attend on Zoom & YouTube.

[Register Here](#)



Last Call!

You can still sign up for my **Modern Blackwork** Embroidery class that starts June 4. (Materials kit is no longer available because it won't ship in time, but you can supply your own materials.) [Details here at my website.](#)

Classes coming up:

- July 23 [Mixed Media Animal Portraits](#) at White Bear Center (in-person)
- July 31 [Gathered Bead Edge Basket](#) at Rum River Library (in-person)
- August 4 [Design & Stitch a Monogram](#) for Dakota County Libraries (zoom)

on the studio table





The studio table this month represents three ARGH moments. First you can see a white band on the top of this Snacks book. I had two in the box I ordered that were misprints like this, with the cover print misaligned. I didn't notice until it was too late to get a refund for them. Note to self to check ALL of them the minute I get the next order. On the right is fabric I bought but then discovered after I washed it there was a big flaw so I couldn't make what I was intending to. So I cut around it and made this Snappy Pouch from a tutorial by Missouri Star Quilting. I hate to say it, but it totally doesn't work. The snap bands at the top twist the wrong way with the slightest pressure and it just is awkward and non-functional. Argh.

just for fun



Want a Crafty Olive sticker?

Last month I did a giveaway for stickers if you came to an in-person show and told me a secret word. This month I want to do something for everyone, even if you aren't local. **Send me a SASE and I will send you a sticker!**



What's an SASE? If you are old-school, like me, you might recognize that as a **Self Addressed Stamped Envelope**. What that means is that you write YOUR address on an envelope and put a stamp on it. Then you put that one *inside another envelope addressed to ME and drop it in the mail*. When I get it, I will put a sticker inside your envelope (and maybe some other goodies) and mail it back to you. Send your SASE to Becka Rahn 1714 Lincoln St NE Minneapolis MN 55413.

links you'll love



- [How cork fabric is made.](#) I thought this was really interesting. I've never worked with cork; have you?
- [An interesting essay about AI generated knitting content.](#) The images are particularly horrific.
- Scientists have [named a new species of ghost pipefish for Snuffalupagus!](#)
- I loved this [conversation with Margaret Kerry](#) who was the live action model for Tinkerbell.
- Hornbills like grapes! [I was always on the lookout for snacks while working on my book and this reel popped up.](#)

- [I thought these ribbon flowers were really pretty.](#) The lei is just gorgeous when finished.
- [Loved this thread about designing Anne Hathaway's dress](#) for the Met Gala.
- Fascinating/creepy/tragic story of [an artist helping to fill in the blanks in an atomic mishap.](#)
- On my blog I wrote about: [Kindness is a shade of purple](#), [What is Two Fish Fibers?](#), and asked [What Makes You Want to Volunteer?](#)
- I've made 3 tops this month using the [Bondi Top pattern from Sew to Grow](#). I love that it's just a little nicer than a t-shirt but super quick to sew.
- I ordered fabric for those tops from iTokri, a shop from India. The experience was not like dealing with a US company (odd communication/confirmations) but I LOVED what I got from them, [especially this chanderi silk/cotton.](#)
- I was a panelist with the American Craft Council and Craft Industry Alliance. If you missed the live webinar, you can watch the recording at the American Craft Council YouTube Channel: [Etsy 20 Years On.](#)
- Thanks to everyone who tried out the survey game in my last newsletter! The winners of the Snacks magnet have been contacted.

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