



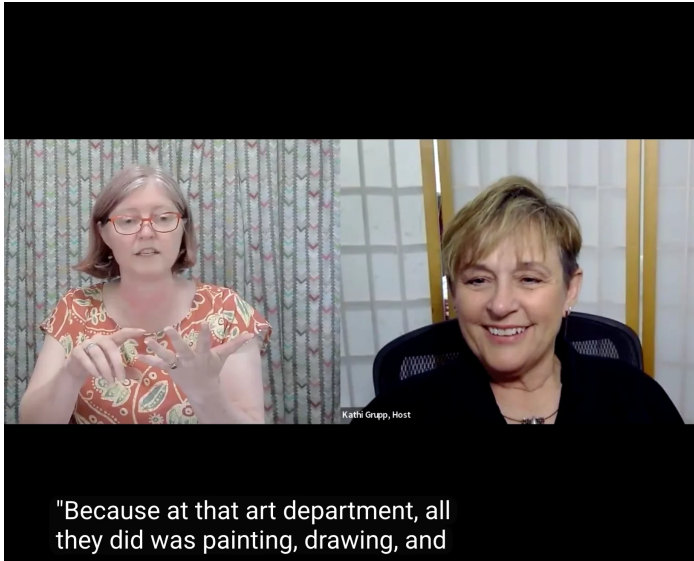
An Artist Newsletter

by Becka Rahn



It's been an absolute whirlwind of a month and I swear May and June just blended right together. I said yes to a couple of projects that weren't on my schedule for the year and they all happened at the same time. [I finished up a huge waterbirds collage community art project with White Bear Center for the Arts](#) and the other project I am hoping to talk about in the next newsletter. We squeezed in Olive's first road trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. We needed to take care of some family things and she got to experience several firsts: staying in a hotel, wading in the Missouri River, 20 hours in the car, meeting her grandparents, and living in a house with a cat. Her Auntie Alice taught her all about drinking out of birdbaths and ponds and where all the good bunnies hide. I hope you are also having some summer adventures. -- Becka

what's new?



I was a podcast guest for *Textiles & Tea* with the Handweavers Guild of America and it was such a FUN conversation! [You can watch it now at their YouTube channel.](#)



My first free project as part of the Benzie Maker Team is on the website now. [Learn to make this zinnia with a cool beaded center.](#)



My sea cucumber is on display at White Bear Center for the Arts as part of the [Instructor Showcase](#) exhibit through July 23.



Coming up in July:

[Mixed Media Animal Portraits at White Bear Center for the Arts.](#) July 23

[Gathered Bead Edge Basket at Rum River North Library.](#) July 31

Also I'll be teaching at

- Design & Stitch a Monogram at Dakota County Library (Aug 4)
- Convergence (Handweavers Guild of America Conference) in New Orleans (Aug 16)
- Embroidered Monograms at White Bear Center (Aug 24)
- Tiny Treasure Bag at White Bear Center (Sept 10)

All the details at my website: beckarah.com



I'm mostly taking the week off this week and doing some "fun" stuff around the house. We're fixing a light fixture, sorting some donations for goodwill, have a new board game coming, and I am planning what to make with these two fabrics I got recently. ([I talked about these on my blog today](#)).

get in the game



While in SD, we played a game with my sister called Summer Camp. It's a deck building game where you are racing to get merit badges in arts & crafts, water sports or cooking. Simple to learn and you can swap out the decks of cards to make it really replayable. [Here are some bargains on used copies.](#)



on the blog

This month on the blog I wrote about:

- My new favorite fabric: [Fabric Review: Spoonflower's Seersucker](#)
- The things no one ever talks about: [The Day After the Art Show](#)
- Making things for me: [Pattern Review: Style Arc Barry Pants & iTokri Fabric](#) (bonus cute puppy photo)

links you'll love

- As a mixed media artist, I hope I get a chance to see [Njideka Akunyili Crosby's Obama Presidential Portrait](#). I think it must be amazing up close.

- Love this [Progress Pride flag designed by NASA](#) from space images.
 - The thought and design (and MATH) [behind this mango pillow](#). Love this pure geekery deep dive.
 - I got to see [working looms like this](#) in person when I visited Italy and they were completely fascinating.
 - Love this: [Paul Tazewell, Oscar-Winning Costume Designer, on Joy, Desire and 'the Limitations of Time' at 61](#)
 - I've never seen the [Woven Spot Stitch in knitting](#) before but I am totally going to try it on my next pair of mittens. Such a cool texture.
 - I have not made these but I know I would love them: [Coffee Ice Cream Sandwiches](#). This is a cool site with tons of allergy friendly recipes. This one is gluten/dairy free.
 - [A 3-D embroidered snail shell](#). I don't know why I need to embroider this but I absolutely do.
 - [An absolutely gorgeous result from a very humble material](#). This surface design is right up my alley.
 - [Love everything about this study](#): Researchers tracking adults over 60 found that people who regularly knitted, crocheted, or did similar handcraft activities had significantly lower rates of cognitive decline.
 - A team at UMD's Swenson College of Science and Engineering has come up with [a machine to make old textiles into new fibers for products we all use](#).
 - "Sliced bread. Soul food. Cheetos. Here are 25 inventions, crazes and cravings that defined the national diet, decade by decade." [My favorite part of this article has got to be the original cover for the Joy of Cooking!](#) It's so good.
 - [A real life pink manta ray?](#) You have to click.
 - The people voted: [They are re-relaasing Mr Rogers stamps](#). Love.
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