

# BILLEDVEV (PICTURE WEAVING)— NORWEGIAN TAPESTRY TECHNIQUES

Sept. 14-17, 2017 (Thurs. 1:00-5:00, Fri. and Sat. 9:30-5:30; Sun. 9:30-1:30)



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## Day One, Thursday

- Greetings; meet your new weaving friends—and their looms.
- Review an outline of the days to come and the resources at our disposal.
- Introductory lecture on the typical characteristics of Norwegian billedvev in terms of technique.
- While examining many samples, see how the choice of warp and weft materials affects the hand of the tapestry fabric, and the ability to create small details.
- Discuss two methods of starting a tapestry.
- Examine many samples and photos to decide what to weave. You can make a sketch, or decide to try various joins in a more free-form, decide-as-you-go method.

Day One goal: Have your loom warped and the header complete. Have a plan for what you would like to weave, based on woven samples and pictures. You could sleep on it, and finalize your ideas on Friday morning, too.)

Thursday Evening: Public lecture: "From Virgins to Spaceships: A Visual Voyage Through Norwegian Tapestry"

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## Day 2, Friday

- AM: Explore billedvev joins, patterns, and symbols by examining tapestries from the Vesterheim collection and many woven samples.
- Lunch: 12-1
- PM: Discussion of finishing: blocking, finishing the ends, framing

Day 2 goal: Have your woven sample underway.

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## Day 3, Saturday

- Weave!
- AM (10:30): Tour of the Vesterheim textile storage area with Laurann Gilbertson, Vesterheim Curator.
- Lunch: 12-1
- PM: Discussion of other types of Norwegian tapestry variant techniques, like rutevev and slit-woven bands on a cradle loom. Discuss Swedish artist Helena Hernmarck's technique.

Day 3 goal: More weaving completed. Much inspiration gained!



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## Day 4, Sunday

Slide presentation of contemporary Norwegian tapestry weavers — for inspiration, and to contemplate how contemporary artists are influenced by traditional Norwegian billedvev.

Day 4 goal: Leave Decorah inspired to weave your own billedvev, or use the inspiration gained to inform your work in other techniques.

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