

Robbie LaFleur

Email: lafleur1801@me.com

Phone/Text: 651-247-6325

Blog/Website: robbielafleur.com

Instagram: [robbie_lafleur](https://www.instagram.com/robbie_lafleur)

Facebook: [facebook.com/Robbie.LaFleur.5](https://www.facebook.com/Robbie.LaFleur.5)

professional experience

Weaver, self-employed

May 2013-present

Weaving Instructor (ongoing)

- “Frida Hansen’s Open Warp Transparency Technique,” a three or four day workshop. Vesterheim Folk Art School, 2023; San Diego Creative Weavers Guild, 2023; Weavers Guild of Minnesota, 2024; Handweavers Guild of Philadelphia, 2024.
- “Frida Hansen’s Transparency Technique,” a three-hour seminar at the Handweavers Guild of America conference, *Convergence 2022*. (2022)
- “Norwegian *Billedvev* (Tapestry),” a four-day workshop given three times at Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and once at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota. (2017-2018)
- “Scandinavian Fringe Embellishments: Folk Art on the Edge(s),” a two-day workshop given at North House Folk School. (2018)

Publisher and Editor,

Norwegian Textile Letter (ongoing)

The *Norwegian Textile Letter*

(norwegiantextileletter.com) is a biannual digital publication for fans of Scandinavian contemporary and historical textiles, with almost 1800 online subscribers.

Writer and Researcher (ongoing)

See publications below.



Education Coordinator, Weavers Guild of Minnesota 2014-2015

During a staff transition at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, I filled in as the Education Coordinator and managed the hiring process for the permanent Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Director, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library 2000-2013. My work as a reference librarian and then director of a collection of legislative and public policy materials was a rich background for my ongoing textile research. Many of the works I weave are based on historical research for both content and design/technique.

exhibitions (participant)

2023. **Red Wing Arts.** “From Domestic to Decorative: The Evolution of Nordic Weaving.” (And [blog post.](#))

2023. **Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum.** “[Embellishment.](#)”

2022. (solo exhibition) **Nordic Center**, Duluth, Minnesota. “[Stories in Tapestries: The Landscape and Community of Valley Grove Church.](#)” September 30-October 29, 2022.

2022. **British Tapestry Group.** “[Threads in Sheds.](#)”

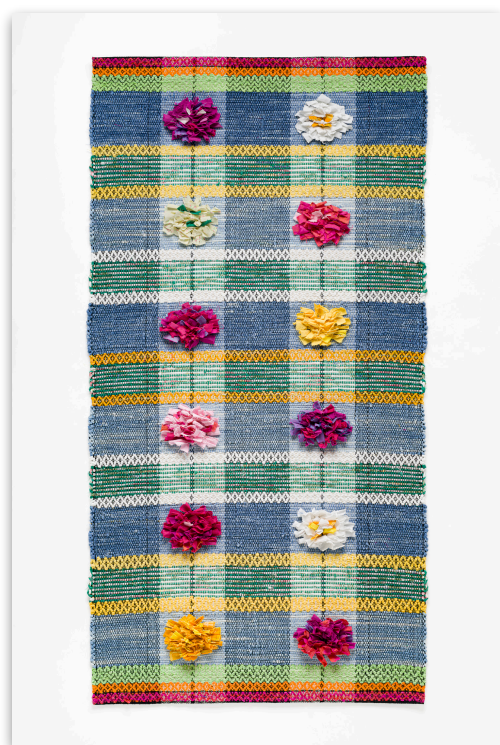
2020. **Norway House.** Minneapolis, Minnesota. “[The Baldishol: A Medieval Tapestry Inspires Contemporary Textiles.](#)”

2019. (Solo exhibition) **Redwood Falls Public Library.** “[Experiments on X: An Exhibit of Weaving.](#)”

2018. Invited Show. **Textile Center of Minnesota.** “Artists in the Kitchen.”

2017. "Curator's Pop-up Show." **Norway House.** This show was in connection with the exhibit, “Traditional Norwegian Weaving: American Reboot.”

2015 (solo exhibition). "Edvard Munch (In Stitches)." **American Swedish Institute.** A series of woven and embroidered works in homage to Edvard Munch's *Skrik* image.



In these venues, I've exhibited several times:

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. "Annual Exhibition in Weaving in the Norwegian Tradition." (Awarded Vesterheim's Gold Medal for Excellence in Weaving, 2006; "Best of Show" twice; and "Peoples Choice" (twice)

Textile Center of Minnesota. "A Common Thread" member show.

commission

The Valley Grove Church Tapestries,
Nerstrand, Minnesota, 2021-2022.

See the film "Valley Grove: A Living Tapestry,"
by Paul Allen Krause, beginning at Minute 46.



exhibitions (curator or co-curator)

Red Wing Arts. "From Domestic to Decorative: The Evolution of Nordic Weaving," 2023.

Norway House. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2020. "The Baldishol: A Medieval Tapestry Inspires Contemporary Textiles."

Norway House. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2017. "Traditional Norwegian Weaving: American Reboot."

Textile Center of Minnesota. Several exhibitions of the Scandinavian Weavers Study Group. "Red," 2016. "Everything Under the (Midnight) Sun: Scandinavian Weavings," 2013. "Scandinavian Boundweave: Timeless Tradition," 2010. "Symbols, Myths, and Fairy Tales," 2008. "Trees," 2006.

Weavers Guild of Minnesota. "A Passionate Pursuit: Scandinavian Weavings from the Collection of Carol Johnson," 2018. 2016. "Historical Scandinavian Textiles," 2016. "The Fruits of Rya Exploration," 2015.

lectures*

**Lectures that are publicly available online are linked.*

"Frida Hansen and her Followers," Damascus Fiber Arts School, May 4, 2024 (zoom).

"Nearly Wild Weaving – In Conversation," (artist interview), April 24, 2024 (zoom).

"What is Norwegian Weaving?" Weavers of Western Massachussetts, January 2024; Heritage Weavers and Spinners Guild of Calgary, February 2024 (zoom).

"A Passion for Norwegian Tapestry: Research On and Off the Loom." London Guild of Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers, November 2023. (zoom)

"The Mystery of the Missing Swans and Maidens: A Frida Hansen Tapestry Tale." Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. July 2023 (webinar).

"A Discussion of Innovation: Norwegian Tapestry Artist Frida Hansen." Westfield (CT) Fiber Guild (zoom), March 2023; Denver Weavers Guild (zoom), January 2023; St. Louis Weavers Guild (zoom), February 2021; Norway House, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2019.

"The Woven Wise and Foolish Virgins: An Enduring Image." (video) August 2022.

"Valley Grove Project: Contemporary Norwegian Billedvev Tapestry Weaving." Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. March 2022 (webinar).

"Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum Collections Connection: Billedvev (Norwegian Weaving)." June 2021 (webinar).

"Frida Hansen and her Transparent Tapestries." St. Louis Weavers Guild, March 2021 (zoom).

"Textiles and Tea" guest artist interview. Handweavers Guild of America. February 2021 (zoom).

"From Kindness to Cutting Satire: Lila Nelson's Tapestries Embraced the World and its Politics." Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, September 2020 (webinar). Also for the Warped Weavers of Bel Air, MD, September 2020 (zoom) and for the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, December 2020 (zoom).

"An introduction to the Life and Work of Norwegian Tapestry Artist Frida Hansen – with some Connections to Scandinavian Weaving in the United States." *Den Gamle By* (a city museum), Aarhus, Denmark, May 19, 2019.

"Scandinavian Tapestry Treasures." Weavers Guild of Minnesota, May 2018.

"From Virgins to Spaceships: A Visual Voyage through Norwegian Tapestry." Given for several groups: Federation Weaving Conference, October 2016; Weavers Guild of Minnesota, January 2017; North House Folk School Northern Fibers Retreat, February 2018; Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, September 2017; Sons of Norway, Mesa, AZ, January 2020; Telerana Textile Guild of Phoenix, January 2021 (zoom); Warped Weavers of Bel Air, MD, January 2021 (zoom); Livsreise, the Norwegian Heritage Center, Stoughton, WI, March 2021 (zoom).

"Norwegian Weaving: Textiles, Travel, and Tradition." Midwest Weaving Conference. 1/2-day seminar. St. Paul, Minnesota, July 2015.

video profile

"Postcards: Robbie LaFleur." Pioneer Public TV, April 2024. Part of a series of documentaries featuring the art, history and cultural heritage of western Minnesota and beyond.

recent publications

"Angels in the Garden of Paradise: The Mystery is not yet Solved." *Tapestry Weaver*, Issue 34, September 2023.

"To the Point, with Textiles." (A profile of three Norwegian artists who work with political themes). *Vesterheim Magazine*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 2021.

"Look Back in Time, Look North: A Focus on Norwegian Tapestry," *Tapestry Weaver* (Journal of the British Tapestry Association), March 2021.

The Baldishol: A Medieval Tapestry Inspires Contemporary Textiles. (Exhibition catalog and essay), March 2021.

"Art in a Time of Pandemic and Protest: A Minneapolis Exhibit Timeline," *Tapestry Weaver* (Journal of the British Tapestry Group), Fall 2020.

"Under Cover: Norwegian Coverlets and Customs." *Selvedge Magazine*, the Nordic issue, #96.

What is Norwegian Weaving? A pamphlet written for Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, one of a series on major folk art types owned by the museum. March 2020.

"My Scream Series," *Journal for Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers*, No. 255, Autumn 2015.

tapestries in books

Mezoff, Rebecca. *The Art of Tapestry Weaving*. Massachusetts: Story Publishing, 2020. (*Great-Grandmother with Chickens*)

Scanlin, Tommye. *Tapestry Design Basics and Beyond*. Pennsylvania: Schiffer Press, 2021. (*Great-Grandmother with Chickens* and *Farmer's Daughter's Yggdrasil (Tree of Life)*)

education

Master of Arts, University of Minnesota (Library Science), June 1984.

Certificate in Weaving, *Valdres Husflidsskole*, Fagernes, Norway, June 1977.

Bachelor of Arts, University of Minnesota (Scandinavian Studies), June 1976.

memberships

Weavers Guild of Minnesota. *Convener, Scandinavian Weaving Study Group*

Textile Center of Minnesota.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

American Tapestry Alliance. Copy editor for the quarterly publication, *Tapestry Topics*.

British Tapestry Guild.