



# KATHLEEN NUTTER



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LEFT: WEAVING IN ACTION AT HER STUDIO IN DOWNTOWN MINERAL POINT.

## Just the Facts!

Kathleen Nutter - [Artful Apparel](#) - Mineral Point

**Artist medium:** Fiber

**Primary method of working:** Hand Weaving

**Favorite surface/technique**

**treatment:** There are four distinct styles: A) Pattern-work for garments and table-runners in smooth, regular cottons, silks, rayon of bamboo and linen. B) Plain-weave (all about color/texture) rayon chenille for scarves. C)

Plain-Weave highly textured, hand-dyed fabric for garments. D) Pieces for the wall incorporating multiple techniques.

**Equipment used:** Four floor looms are in use at once, a White Serger and a Pfaff sewing machine are used to finish edges and then sew garments. Favorite tools: Warping boards, shuttles, bobbin winders, spool racks, rotary cutters and matts,

scissors, dyes, sinks, stove and dye pots, washing machine, crochet hooks and umbrella swifts are essential tools.

**Studio playlist:** Zen Radio for finishing work done outdoors in the garden. T-Rex, Vivaldi, Big Band Swing may be playing while at the looms, where I need high-energy music.



FALL ART TOUR 2019



BLACK & WHITE JACKET



CREAM JACKET

# Artist Conversation!

## Let's Learn a Little More...

**Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be living life the you are today?**

I started weaving for a living in 1985, making about 30 cents an hour for a few years. I had a knack for finding cheap old farmhouse rentals for years, which was essential. Despite modest wages I bought our first home in 1993, married, had our son and put my spouse through school while working 18-hour days for years.

I am self-educated in fiber. I have a degree in Landscape Architecture, earned in my forties just in time for the 2008 collapse. The art and design element of the degree wasn't wasted though, having enhanced both my work and my workspace.

**How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?**

My work is integral to my entire life. I've always worked from my home, eaten from the garden, tending it during breaks from weaving. I've been leading an earthy life, rotating my attention from work to baby to garden to work to the wood stove.

Now the child is grown, and I have my own shop where the studio is. Work is always with me. I save finishing work for after-hours on the porch, and weave pattern work long before the shop opens. This leaves inadequate time for a social life, so is not yet the best balance, but is heading there.



BLUE JACKET



BLUE & BROWN JACKET



MATCHING HAT & SCARF



LIGHTWEIGHT COVERUP



DURING FALL ART TOUR 2019



STUDIO/GALLERY



FALL ART TOUR 2019



FIBERS ON LOOM



ARTFUL APPAREL WINDOW DISPLAY



**Tell us a little bit about your Studio:**

My studio and shop comprise 1,400 square feet in a historic limestone building on the main street in Mineral Point, WI. It's a peaceful space with ancient wood floors, twelve-foot ceilings, and large back windows. Our building is integral to the historic atmosphere of the downtown. I spent the year 2015 returning it to its 1800s original shape, hiring a professional to reconstruct the facade. The front doors are tall with arched glass, giving the feel of a humble sanctuary as one enters. In combination with the work presented it creates such a nice feeling that visitors very often remark on it.

**Where do you find your inspiration:**

Inspiration for my color relationships comes from panning the environment, natural and built, for beautiful and interesting contrasts and gradations. The shadow line between a blue door and limestone wall may have an edge of mauve, for example, and will appear in my hand-dyed fabric using the same ratio of color interplay. Panning a garden or the Grand Canyon yields a feast for the eyes. Pattern-work features pendant forms, with an eye on 1920s fashions. Interpretations are abstract, not literal. My line is "Skylines" because my initial dye jobs were all drawn from sky colors.

**Where can we find your work and learn more?**

I joined the Madison Arts Cooperative in 1985. This introduced me to methods of photographing and displaying work, book-keeping, and applying for juried art fairs. For years I did about eight art fairs yearly and had accounts with nine galleries nationally. Since opening my shop in 2015 I am hard-pressed to keep up with demand from walk-in customers, so I have deemphasized marketing, even retracting purchase options from my website. I am preparing to add different sort of purchase options back into my website now and enhance my online presence via social media.