

## Special Requirements:

Large tables; screen or AV cart

## Special Points of Interest:

Asian textiles, though functional, vividly symbolize cultural heritage, including the religions and family traditions, of the community.

## Other programs by this artist:

- [- African Textiles](#)
- [- Colonial and Pioneer Spinning and Weaving](#)
- [- Indigo Dyeing](#)
- [- Natural Dyeing](#)
- [- Navajo Weaving and Design](#)
- [- Weaving and Other Fiber Arts](#)



## Program Name: Asian Textiles

Artist: Jamie Root

## Workshop Description

Asian textiles have long played an important role in defining social status, village origin, and occupation. This is still true among the minority tribes of Western China, Southeast Asia, parts of the Philippines, Korea, and Nepal. Asian textiles, particularly silk, have also been important to Asian economies.

Jamie Root will introduce students to the textiles of Japan, China and Southeast Asia during this colorful residency.

Students will explore examples of fabrics from these countries. Also included will be information about the Hmong, Kimono, rice-paper cloth, invention of the spinning wheel in China,

development of silk, and current development in sericulture.

Jamie will discuss the importance of the Dragon in Chinese and Japanese clothing. Students will design their own dragon and stencil their own silk banner, or weave their own brightly-colored floral designs on circular looms of cardboard.



## Educational Objectives & Standards

### Students will:

- Investigate Asian cultures and their long history of weaving, dyeing, and fabric design
- Examine the historic and modern-day Asian textile industry

### Behavioral Studies:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflect its values and beliefs

### Geography:

- Knows how places and regions serve as culture symbols



## Artist Bio: Jamie Root

---

Growing up in a talented and creative family, Jamie was encouraged to express her artistic tendencies in paint and sculpture. She continued to explore new media while earning a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science.

Jamie's teaching career started serendipitously during an internship in the exhibits department at the Kansas City Museum. She was drafted to develop and teach history

and nature classes to preschoolers. More recently, she spent 11 years teaching life sciences in the public schools.

A single lamb purchased in 1991 for these classes began a new passion. Wool from her flock of sheep is the material of her art now. She is a member of the Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City and a known fiber art enabler.

## List of Resources:

---

### Books:

Asian Costumes and Textiles from the Bosphorus to

Fujiyama: The Zaira and Marcel Mis Collection by Mary Hunt Kahlenberg Skira International

Corporation; (November 1, 2001)

ISBN: 8881189712

Textiles of Southeast Asia: Tradition, Trade and Transformation

by Robyn Maxwell, Mattiebelle Gittinger

Periplus Editions;

Revised edition (July 1, 2003)

ISBN: 0794601049

Flowers, Dragons, and Pine Trees: Asian Textiles in the Collection of the Spencer Museum of Art

by Mary Dusenberry

Hudson Hills Press;

(September 2004)

ISBN: 1555952380

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

## Vocabulary

---

**Brocade:** an elaborate weave structure with raised designs on a fabric

**Cartoon:** a drawing placed behind the warp to determine the design

**Loom:** a frame to hold warp threads under tension for weaving of cloth

**Sericulture:** the production of raw silk by raising silkworms

**Tapestry:** a woven picture, often woven on a vertical loom

**Warp:** lengthwise threads on a loom under tension

**Weft:** threads on a shuttle woven over and under the warp to make a web

## Post-Performance Activities

---

1. Bring in a professional storyteller to share Asian Folktales, including *The Crane Maiden* or *The Weaving of a Dream* by Marilee Heyer
2. Watch a video about silkworm sericulture, examine silk cocoons and examples of cloth
3. Write Haikus describing the beauty of the cloths shown in the workshop

