Maupston Design Studio, Owner and Artist

2006-present

*Maupston Design Studio is a textile art business selling handspun art yarns and finished textile artwork. Founded as a wholesale business in 2006, I began selling my own handspun yarns directly to local markets in 2008. Starting with one part time suburban market in Bronxville, NY, Maupston has now sold artisanal yarn, textile art and the handspinning work of multiple fiber artists at numerous NYC farmers’ markets and some of the most competitive arts and crafts shows in the country.  In the Fall of 2015, I mounted my first solo show at the gallery at Etui Fiber Arts in Larchmont, NY featuring contemporary sculpture and installation created from my handspun yarn, reclaimed, industrial materials and found objects. At the same time, Maupston began to rent floor space as a business within Etui Fiber Arts. I now have a fixed location from which to sell and showcase yarns, temari and contemporary artwork. I continue to teach the art and design of spinning and the Japanese art of temari to fellow artists, post graduate designers, college interns and hobbyists alike.*

ART INSTRUCTION: 2006- present

Handspinning, Temari, Yarn Design

Internship Program: 2012-present. Gifted college students in a studio or performance arts major,

and newly graduated designers are taught to spin and design yarn. Generally 1-3 artists are chosen to train each year.

• Students are instructed in top whorl drop spindle, and then transitioned to the spinning wheel.

• Students are taught the differences between flyer lead, bobbin lead, and double drive tensions, as well as selecting appropriate whorl ratios for a given yarn.

• Drafting techniques include inchworm, long draw and semi-worsted.

• Plying techniques for 2 ply, 3 ply and Navajo 3 ply yarns.

• Multiple fibers are used with an examination of their differing properties, including but not limited to various breeds of wool, alpaca, llama, silk, cotton, bamboo, and exotics such as camel, yak and cashmere.

• Concluding 6 months of training, 1 semester, or once the ability to create technically solid 2 ply yarn with interesting design has been demonstrated, students may be asked to have their work represented by Maupston Design Studio. Under a wide set of aesthetic guidelines, they are given creative freedom to spin their own designs which may then be included at the markets and shows of Maupston Design Studio.

Temari Teaching Artist: 2015. Under a grant from the Center for Creative Aging and support from the township of Bronxville, NY and the Public Library of Bronxville, NY.

• In collaboration with the director of the Bronxville Public Library, research and planning for the course began in late 2013 to create a syllabus for teaching senior students (55yrs +) the intricate art of temari.

• In a highly intensive class, I instructed 8 women in the traditional embroidery, division and construction techniques of temari.

• The class covered color theory, from Eastern and Western cultural perspectives, but then asked the students to link color and material choice to personal experience and memory in the design of their temari. In this way students were asked to do more than simply construct an impressive piece by copying directions; they were asked to create personalized works of art.

• The course culminated in an exceptionally well reviewed formal exhibition of the students’ work in the gallery of the Bronxville Public Library (April, 2015).

Private Instruction: 2006-present. Multiple ages and skill levels from hobbyist to professional.

CONTEMPORARY ART: 2012- present

A study of the interconnectedness of craft and art through the fine skills of handspinning, and more recently, traditional and non-traditional temari.

• Multiple sales of artwork to private collections in Washington DC, New York and California.

• First solo exhibition at the Gallery of Etui Fiber Arts, Larchmont, NY in September, 2015.

• Artwork also displayed, sold and well received in numerous art market venues listed below.

YARN DESIGN: 2006-present

The design and creation of hundreds of fine artisanal Handspun Yarns since 2006.

• Establishment of a modern art yarn aesthetic with otherwise traditional spinning wheels and tools.

• Incorporation of industrial materials, globally sourced textiles, local fibers from nearby farms, exotic luxury fibers, vintage threads, metal filaments and more.

• Creation of yarns that are composed, or sculpted, and colored on the spinning wheel, inch by inch, as fibers are manipulated, stretched, shredded, combed and twisted into the skein.

• Utilization of multiple spindles, combs, and spinning wheels spanning a historical tradition going back at least 1,000 years.

• Great familiarity with major brands of spinning wheels on the market, in addition to experience working with vintage, antique wheels, and drop spindles.

• Yarns designs tailored to specific wheels including Bobbin Lead, Flyer Lead and Double Drive tensions, as well as a treadle driven Great Wheel.

• Yarns vary from lace weight to ultra bulky for simple knitting.

• Self color blocking yarns, and other yarns with the color spun into the strand to create a “self painted” effect when knit.

• Deconstructed and large scale yarns for multi media artists. Not intended for knitting, but for painted, sculptural and installation application.

BUSINESS PRODUCTION: 2006-present.

Establishing Maupston as a sole proprietorship in 2006, and then transferring it to an LLC in 2011, I have overseen every aspect of the business of selling art and craft from Maupston Design Studio.

• After years of working in mobile “pop-up” markets, Anna transitioned Maupston to a permanent space within a high end yarn and fiber art store in Larchmont, NY.

• Manage all market and show venues, calendars, displays, set-up, break down and applications.

• Maintain insurance and licenses.

• Maintain web design, monitor SEO, establish and maintain social media accounts.

• Lead product sales, spinning demonstrations and customer outreach at multiple venues throughout the year.

• Photograph market products and artwork.

•Maintain resale accounts for spinning equipment and fibers.

RECOGNITION:

•Acceptance to numerous juried Art and Craft Shows including but not limited to:

Makers World Faire, New York, 2015

Fine Art and Craft at Rhinebeck, Artrider Events, 2015

Crafts at Lyndhurst, Fall and Spring, Artrider Events (2015)

Crafts at Lincoln Center, ACAC (2012, 2013, 2014)

Crafts at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Manhattan (2013-2015)

BUST! Magazine Craftacular (2013)

Crafts at New Paltz, Quail Hollow Events (2012)

American Art Marketing at Javits Center (2011)

•Selected “Tastemaker” and Contributor for Martha Stewart Omnimedia’s American Made Market, 2013

•Scholarship Booth recipient at New Amsterdam Market, 2012, Micro Finance Club of NY & Business Outreach Center Network

•Selected Vendor of the Month, 2012 by Laurel Hill, ethical, sustainable fiber tools.

•WEDC (Women’s Enterprise Development Center) Success Story, 2011

MUSICAL EXPERIENCE, 1994-present

I became a visual artist after settling down to have a family. My formal training is in music. As a conservatory trained mezzo-soprano, I have both taught music to students of every age, and enjoyed performances with creative groups across the country. A sample of my performance credits includes:

• Leading roles in *Carmen, Cavelleria Rusticana, Dialogues of the Carmelites, Cosi fan Tutte,Die Fledermaus, Amahl and the Night Visitors,* and many others.

• Award winner of the New York Vocal Artists Competition, singing at Weill Hall /Carnegie Hall on multiple occasions.

• Acting in film, video, voice-over and onstage including the Shakespeare Theatre Company of Washington, DC and in the Max Brooks film, *Nightmares.*

My classical training in music regularly informs both visual art and teaching. Questions of expression, history, design, and deconstruction are closely parallel music and visual art. The struggle to find a physical technique and build the solid specialized skills that truly function for the artist’s creative expression remains a universal challenge across performance and material art disciplines.

EDUCATION

Master of Music, Vocal performance, Catholic University, 1998

Bachelor of Music, Vocal performance, Oberlin Conservatory, 1994

Bachelor of Arts, English/ drama emphasis, Oberlin College, 1994

Classwork,Fashion Institute of Technology: Painting from Nature, Painting on Silk, Weaving, Computer Design (U4ia), 2003.

Intern and Assistant, with Lou Stovall, Master Printmaker, Washington DC, 1998-2000.

PERSONAL INTERESTS and SKILLS

• Proficient Conversational French, Elementary German and Italian

• 12 years Piano Study

• Exceptional Home Cook and Food Enthusiast

• Origami and Paper Study

• Children’s Literature

ONLINE LINKS & PORTFOLIOS:

| PORTFOLIO LINKS:  From website, *www.maupstonyarn.com*  •40 Images VCU, assembled for Virginia Commonwealth University.    Additional portfolios, and images may be found at www.maupstonyarn.com, including  •Modern Handspun Art Yarns  •Temari  •Scultpure and Installation  •Student Work | ARTICLES:  • Highlighted in *CBS Watch! Magazine,* April 2014              not online, Travel Section, pg. 59  •Article in Markets Media Magazine, June 18, 2014              http://marketsmedia.com/bronx-yarn/  •Martha Stewart Contributor Biography:  http://www.marthastewart.com/contributor/1076495/anna-upston  •Feature Article by the *Examiner.com, March 2012:*  *[www.examiner.com/article/fashion-gem-hidden-away-nyc-flea-market](http://www.examiner.com/article/fashion-gem-hidden-away-nyc-flea-market)*  •Article in My Hometown Bronxville:  <http://myhometownbronxville.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4960:anna-upston-of-maupston-design-studio-hand-spins-yarn-at-the-bronxville-farmers-market&catid=22:shopping&Itemid=20> |
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| VIDEO LINKS:  •YouTube Video Portfolio (2 minute video):  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jT6dKYzffoA  •About Spinning at Fulton Stall Market:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfMmTViw9xo  •Learn to Spin, parts 1-3:  •http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEB1OWe2\_ZE  •http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYgn5zqgoKM  •http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vCfvEp7KNY | SOCIAL MEDIA:  •Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/maupston  •Instagram & Twitter: @maupston  •Pinterest: Anna Upston  •YouTube : maupstondesignstudio |