



Amanda Wood

Amanda Wood is a contemporary textile artist who works with hand dyed fibres in traditional and contemporary weaving and stitching techniques. She is based in Vancouver with her husband and two children.

What's your background?

I have been weaving for about five years. From the first moment I tried it, I knew that I loved planning and building cloth but it certainly has not always come easily. I love finding the elusive "flow" when I sit down at the loom, but I have to switch off parts of my brain to achieve it.

What inspires you to create?

I'm inspired by vulnerability and exploration and the strength and bravery that it takes to do both. I always seem to be pushing myself in those directions. I love the chase: new forms and a deeper understanding of materials and processes. My work is about filling my own personal need to make things but also about growing and learning as a human being and connecting with people through the work.

What's integral to the role of a craft artist in today's society?

I really believe we are what we make. In 2017 I was co-curator of a group textile show called Means of Production at the North Vancouver Arts Council. We connected to each other through the tactility, strength and vulnerability of thread and our commitment to technique and skill development.

I can't speak for all craft artists but textiles in particular seem to allow storytelling in a very personal and universal way and they allow for these very real and personal connections to take place. Everyone has a tactile memory related to cloth in some way. Cloth seems to allow a tangible expression that can get lost in this age of social media.

Are there any pieces you're most proud of?

I'm most proud of the ephemeral pieces I've helped my youngest students create as an artist in residence. I am so lucky to work with public elementary schools to develop arts integrated programming. My classes introduce students to mark making, mindful drawing, non-permanent art and alternative materials. In BC we really need more art programs at the elementary level so these classes really fill a need.

What's going now or in the future for you?

I've been exploring chance, found patterns and networks. I've been playing around with plain woven grids and letting the grid lines move a bit more, find their curve and push into space. This has been a really interesting new direction and I'm excited to share these pieces in an upcoming group exhibition this fall in Vancouver with: Cut Weave Print Throw at Elissa Cristall Gallery.

**Visit Amanda's website at
www.amandawoodstudio.com/.
This interview has been edited for
clarity and brevity.**