



A publication of the American Textile History Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

Artist Textiles: Picasso to Warhol

The American Textile History Museum is proud to present *Artist Textiles: Picasso to Warhol*, a groundbreaking exhibition with rare pieces, many never before seen on public display, from the masters of 20th-century modern art. The exhibit runs through March 29, 2015.

With over 200 rare pieces, *Picasso to Warhol* reflects the effort of artists to make their work less elitist and more relevant to the lives of ordinary people. Not merely to be hung on a wall, these pieces were to be worn and walked on and sat on, from a Pablo Picasso dress and a Salvador Dali tie to a Ben Nicholson rug and Saul Steinberg bed sheet.



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ATHM's current exhibition, Picasso to Warhol, features 20th-century art in textiles and fashion from masters of modern art. Photo by David Brow of The Lowell Sun.

ATHM Brings you the World A Message from ATHM President and CEO Jonathan Stevens



A scarf by Salvador Dali is currently on display in Picasso to Warhol.

"Absolutely stunning museum." "I've been to a lot of museums, but this is one of the very best!" "Extraordinary displays!" "What a surprisingly fascinating museum!"

These are just a few of the recent rave reviews on TripAdvisor.com from visitors to the American Textile History Museum. In fact, our visitors consistently have such a fabulous experience that ATHM has been awarded TripAdvisor's coveted "Certificate of Excellence" for consistently outstanding reviews.

We are delighted that our guests have such a wonderful experience here. We work very hard to inspire and excite our audiences with dynamic exhibitions and engaging programs that explore and celebrate our society, communities, and culture.

We are able to offer this level of quality programming and exhibits with your continuing support. Your gift to the Museum provides critical dollars to support educational programming, quality exhibitions, care and preservation of collections, facility maintenance, and much more.

Your support helps us bring to you exhibitions and programming from all over the world. Our current exhibition, *Artist Textiles: Picasso to Warhol*, showcases never-before-seen designs from renowned artists such as Picasso, Warhol, Dalí, Chagall, and Miró. Recent past exhibitions have presented NASA spacesuits from the Smithsonian Institution, international contemporary art installations, historic machines, priceless Civil War objects, and haute couture.

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This is far from your run-of-the-mill museum.

An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, recipient of the Trip Advisor® Certificate of Excellence, and voted Merrimack Valley's Favorite Museum, the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA, is nationally recognized for unique collections, programs, and exhibits celebrating the innovation, creativity, and human spirit that have defined our world. At ATHM, we have dedicated more than 50 years to preserving the past and shaping the future by telling America's story through the art, science, and history of textiles. ♦



Visitors to ATHM learn about the life of a mill girl in the interactive "Lunchbox Stories" exhibit.

ATHM Brings You the World

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We have visitors from all over the country and all over the world who journey to Lowell to visit ATHM, recognizing that there is no other museum in the world that offers what we do, telling America's story through the rich textile history that has shaped our country.

We know we have a national treasure in ATHM, but it's incredibly gratifying when others recognize that as well. There is perhaps no greater testament to that than our affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution. Out of 17,500 museums in this country, only 178 have earned the right to be affiliates of the Smithsonian.

With decreasing public and private dollars supporting our nation's museums, your support is more important than ever. In the face of the pressures and demands of everyday life, isn't it wonderful to be able to go to a museum and immerse ourselves in culture and history and beauty?

Please consider taking a moment to visit www.athm.org and donate today. A gift of any size truly makes an impact. With your support, we can continue to bring you the world.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season. ♦

Jonathan A. Stevens,
President & CEO

Picasso's Musical Fawn for Bloomcraft Fabrics, c. 1963, was reproduced in different color schemes.

Artist Textiles: Picasso to Warhol

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This early 1950s dress features Ice Cream Sundaes by Andy Warhol.



Pablo Picasso's Toros design is used in White Stag's plastic coated cotton après-ski jacket, c. 1963.

“Art for the masses”

Organized by the Fashion and Textile Museum, London, *Picasso to Warhol* showcases 20th-century art in textiles and fashion, highlighting works by Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, Henri Matisse, Alexander Calder, Marc Chagall, Raoul Dufy, Ben Nicholson, and many others. The exhibit features examples of key European and American art movements – Fauvism, Cubism, Constructivism, Abstraction, Surrealism, and Pop Art – as well as the work of leading fashion designers and manufacturers.

“This exhibition of rare fashion and furnishing fabrics by artists highlights the quality of textiles as a medium for combining art and mass production,” said ATHM President Jonathan Stevens. “Visitors will

gain a rare and remarkable glimpse of how ordinary people were once able to directly engage in a personal and intimate way with high modern art through their everyday clothing and the furnishings of their homes.”

Twentieth-century art in textiles was truly “art for the masses,” bringing the high culture of art into the everyday lives of ordinary citizens – also an important part of the mission of the American Textile History Museum.

“Picassos may be leaned against, not sat on.”

This major exhibition of works on fabric begins in the 1910s with designs by the Vorticist painter Wyndham Lewis and the artists of Bloomsbury's Omega Workshops – Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Roger

Fry – who wanted to change “the erroneous distinction between fine and applied art.”

The Fauvist painter Raoul Dufy was the first 20th-century artist to become seriously and successfully involved in producing textile designs. His work influenced and encouraged many other artists and textile companies in Britain, on the Continent and in America.

After the war the movement to create “a masterpiece in every home” flowered with the involvement of leading contemporary artists. Eventually, these art textiles were turned into commercial clothing. By the 1960s, Picasso was allowing his pictures to be printed on almost any fabric, with the exception of upholstery. The sofa was a line he wouldn't cross, as the curators note: “Picassos may be leaned against, not sat on.” ♦

Classes in Weaving and More in ATHM's Textile Arts Center

Whether you're a dedicated textile artist or have never picked up a needle, the newly renovated Textile Arts Center at the American Textile History Museum offers an opportunity to learn a new skill or expand your knowledge in a fun and supportive environment. From crocheting and knitting to spinning and felting, ATHM's textile arts education programs provide an enjoyable and rewarding learning experience for students of all levels and ages.

ATHM offers a wide variety of weaving classes on the looms in the Textile Arts Center. Experienced educators explore the fundamentals of technique, design, and color while providing expert guidance as you create your own works.

Visit www.athm.org to register for an upcoming weaving class or another one of ATHM's many class offerings. Enrollment is open and space is limited.



ATHM's new artist-in-residence, Sara White, weaves on one of the many looms in the recently renovated Textile Arts Center.

TEXTILE ARTS CLASSES IN WEAVING

Inkle Loom Belt Weaving

December 21, 2014 or January 18, 2015, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Learn how to weave narrow bands on an inkle loom, which can be used for belts, guitar straps, trims, or bracelets. The varieties of color and pattern are limited only by the weaver's imagination!

Floor Loom Weaving: 4, 8 and 10 shaft

January 4, 11, 18 and 25 (snow day March 1); February 1, 8, 15 and 22 (snow day March 1); March 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Brush up on your weaving skills at this fun class where you will learn to design your piece, learn the arithmetic of weaving, use the warping boards to keep track of the length and width of your piece with counting thread, dress your loom, sley the reed, thread the heddles, wind your warp, tie on, tie up your shafts to your treadles, wind your bobbins, and start weaving.

Weave It! Sample Class

January 24, February 21 or March 21, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Always wanted to weave something fun? Here's your chance to explore the art of weaving!

Card Weaving

February 15, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Learn how to use a card-weaving loom and weaving tablets to weave ancient bands.

Inkle Pick Up Weaving

March 22, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Learn how to use pick up sticks to make your own patterns.

These weaving classes are all taught by Barbara Provost of the Weavers' Guild of Boston. For pricing and a complete program schedule, visit www.athm.org or contact Catherine A. Mazur, Director of Education and Community Outreach, at 978-441-0400 (x262) or cmazur@athm.org.

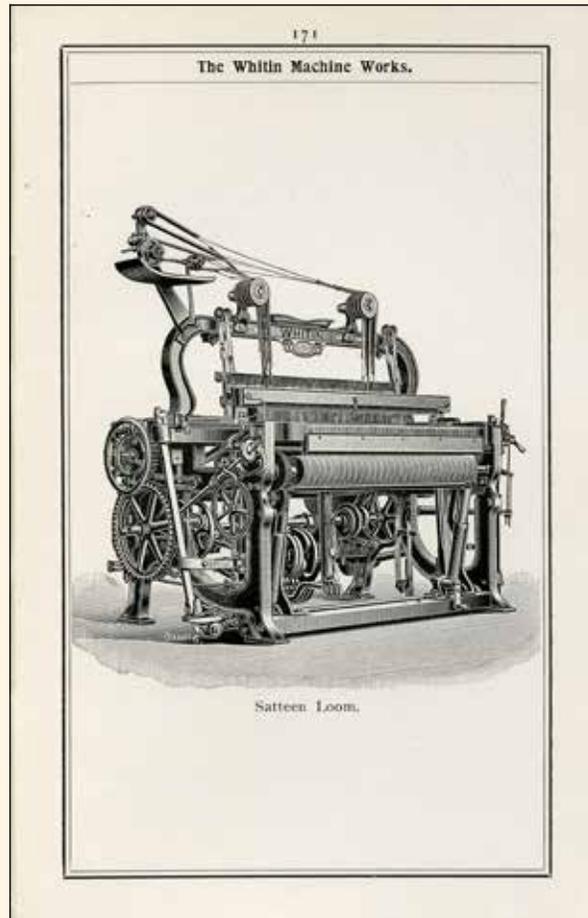
Researchers Far and Wide

Researchers have always come from across the country and across the globe to visit the Osborne Library here at the American Textile History Museum. However, with the Chace Catalogue, the museum's online catalogue, now available, and using the wonders of Google, more and more foreign researchers are contacting us via email, seeking to have research questions answered without having to visit directly, a trip that is not always possible.

A researcher in England emailed recently about two items he found in our holdings relating to the Redshaw Lister Woollen Machinery Co., which was based in Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, England. His great-great-grandfather started the company, and he was hoping to get as much information as he could on the company to present it to his 80-year-old grandfather, who also worked for the company. Fortunately, both items were in good condition and could be scanned, and we were able to supply the researcher with copies so his grandfather could reminisce about the machinery on which he had worked.

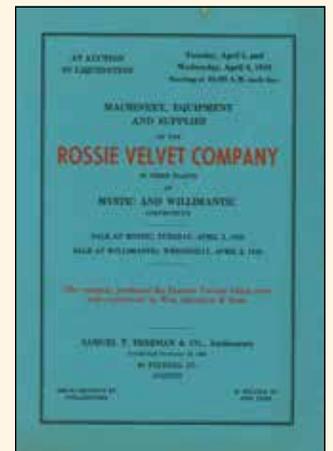
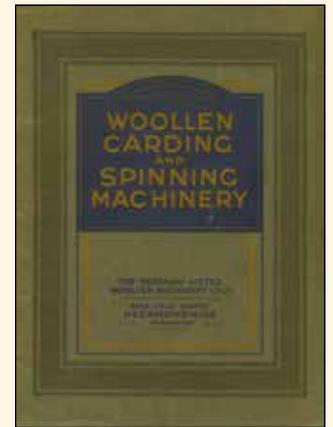
A German researcher came across an image in our collections of the Mystic Velvet Mill in Mystic, Conn., formally known as the Rossie Velvet Co. This man is a great-nephew of Ernest and John Rossie, who founded the company, and he was hoping to get a copy of the image for his history of the American branch of the Rossie family. Not only could we supply him with a copy of the image, but we were also able to send a copy of the auction catalog published at the time the Rossie plants in Mystic and Willimantic, Conn., were liquidated in 1938.

One of the more far-reaching requests we received was from a man who specifically inquired about images of Whitin Machine Works looms, as he was a loom restorer and was hoping to get the most detailed images available to help with his restoration. He first supplied the library with links to two items in the Chace Catalogue, and ended up purchasing a number of images of looms and copies of some of the trade catalog pages specific to looms. All of this was handled via email and it was not until the transaction was finished that we discovered he was living in a town called Halfway House, South Africa!



Left: This trade catalog by Redshaw Lister Woollen Machinery Co. (1925) was discovered in ATHM's Chace Catalogue by a researcher in England.

Bottom, right: A man in Germany was pleased to find this auction catalog of the Rossie Velvet Company (1938), which was founded by his great-uncles, in the Osborne Library's holdings.



Top, right: A trade catalog containing detailed images of looms from Whitin Machine Works (1904) was of great use to a loom restorer from South Africa.

Sometimes foreign researchers do stumble across the museum and library quite by accident. That happened to an Australian documentary filmmaker, who was visiting the U.S. and saw a notice about the *Homefront & Battlefield* exhibit at the New-York Historical Society this past summer. She fell in love with the exhibit and immediately contacted the museum. Her grandfather, born in Yorkshire and raised in Australia, spent decades as a wool buyer in Australia for the Arlington Woolen Mills here in Massachusetts. After

a quick trip to the library and a long lunch with Madelyn Shaw, co-curator of the *Homefront & Battlefield* exhibit, she has returned to Australia to begin researching sources for funds to make a documentary about her grandfather and the wool industry.

The Osborne Library truly is a worldwide resource for scholars, genealogists, and just plain folks looking for help with their scholarly pursuits and their family histories. ♦

ATHM Honors Senator Eileen Donoghue



Jonathan Stevens, ATHM President & CEO; Terry O'Connor, Committee Co-Chair; Community Service Award Recipient Senator Eileen Donoghue; Jack O'Connor, Committee Co-Chair.

ATHM has honored State Senator Eileen Donoghue with the 2014 Community Service Award, celebrating her profound influence on the quality of life in our region through her service as a respected attorney and dedicated public servant. The award was presented at a Gala on November 7, 2014 at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

Since 2000, ATHM has held the Community Service Award Gala to bring the Lowell community together to honor individuals and organizations that have given back to the community in extraordinary ways, through leadership, service, and involvement.

As the Museum's largest annual fundraising event, the Gala is essential in supporting the Museum's growth. All proceeds from the event support the Museum's extensive collections, innovative education programs, and engaging exhibitions. ♦

American Textile Hall of Fame Class of 2014

The American Textile History Museum proudly inducted two deserving honorees into the American Textile Hall of Fame this fall. The Weavers' Guild of Boston, recognized as the foundation of weaving guilds in the nation, and the late Deborah S. Pulliam, a respected writer, historian, and fiber artist, were recognized by ATHM for their significant contributions to and support of the textile industry.

The American Textile Hall of Fame was initiated in 2001 by the American Textile History Museum in Lowell to honor individuals, corporations, and institutions that have made significant contributions to the textile industry in America, as well as those who have advanced the place, role, and appreciation of textiles in American life.

"These leaders and innovators have blazed a path for the industry and the evolution of textiles, as well as advanced the mission and development of the Museum," said ATHM President and CEO Jonathan Stevens. "They are more than worthy of great recognition for these contributions, and we are honored to pay tribute to their achievements." ♦



ATHM President and CEO Jonathan Stevens presents honorary plaques to the American Textile Hall of Fame Class of 2014 inductees: the Weavers' Guild of Boston and the late Deborah S. Pulliam. Susan Dunham, center left, accepted on behalf of Ms. Pulliam. Accepting on behalf of the Weavers' Guild are, from left, Dowager Deans Florence Feldman-Wood, Rosemonde Spinelli, and Peggy Church, current Dean Susan Targove, and Dowager Deans Nancy Hodes, and Ruth Ward.

A Tale of Two Craftsmen



As a clothing cutter at Malcolm Kenneth Company, Morris Chase wore this apron with the attached steel blade. He also wielded these large tailor's shears.

Although we strive at ATHM to accept objects for our collections that are in excellent condition, often we receive gifts that couldn't possibly be considered "museum quality." However, sometimes the back story is so compelling that we're blown away by the relevance it lends to our mission of telling the story of the textile industry.



These tailor's shears weigh just over 2½ pounds and measure 15½ inches in length.

Such was the case recently when David Chase donated his father's apron and work tools. Morris "Murry" Chase was employed as a clothing cutter for Malcolm Kenneth Company, a menswear firm in Dorchester, MA, from the mid-1940s until his retirement in 1973. Mr. Chase's apron can only be described as "well worn," with several torn and patched areas, and a distinctive,

heavily soiled band where he probably leaned against his cutting table day after day. A steel blade, wrapped at one end with tape for safety in handling is tied to the apron with a fraying cord, ready to cut loose threads as quickly as a gunslinger can draw.

But it is the tailor's shears that caught the attention of staff and volunteers alike. They're massive at 15½ inches in length and, weighing just over 2½ pounds, surprisingly comfortable to hold, though few of us could work them. The painted handles, where the paint isn't worn away from use, capture light and look as sleek as a new car. The brass cap at the pivot is proudly stamped with the name R. Heinisch, Inventor, Newark, N.J., U.S.A. One of the blades is also engraved, in cursive no less, R. Heinisch.

Rochus Heinisch emigrated to the United States from Austria in the early 1820s, eventually settling in Newark as a manufacturer of cutlery, primarily tailor's shears. In the course of his career he patented a process of welding steel to iron blades. He notably designed handles that were considered a vast improvement over the English shears in use at the time whose poorly shaped handles were likened to "instruments of torture." It was said in the trade that Heinisch shears enabled one man to do the work of four.



New Dresses added to ATHM's Core Exhibit

ATHM has been working to replace the majority of clothing pieces throughout the core exhibition, both to showcase more of ATHM's extensive collection and to ensure the preservation of pieces by removing them from display. Visitors will now notice several new garments on display in the *Fitting In* gallery, including this lingerie dress (c. 1904-1907) that is being installed by Curator Karen Herbaugh. Lingerie dresses were fashionable summer dresses for graduations, garden parties, teas, and other afternoon social events.

Heinisch died in 1874 after leaving the company to his sons. R. Heinisch's Sons was bought in 1914 by a former employee, Jacob Wiss.

David Chase recalls his father took much pride in his job, enjoying the challenge of matching and cutting plaids, and cutting around flaws in fabrics in order to preserve the most useable pieces for garments. Part of that joy was undoubtedly due to the remarkable shears he wielded, surely made before 1914, connecting one fine craftsman to another. ♦



491 Dutton Street
Lowell, MA 01854

Visit Us



Holiday Shopping at ATHM

Visit the Shop at the American Textile History Museum for unique holiday decorations and gifts that you won't find anywhere else, from hand-crafted items of local artisans to ATHM's line of heirLOOMS™ products created by skilled weavers on vintage museum looms. Denise Webb, ATHM's new shop manager, has stocked the shop with jewelry, scarves, home décor, accessories, toys, and much more! Stop by the Museum and find perfect one-of-a-kind gifts for your friends and family this holiday season.



Museum Hours

Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Monday, Tuesday and major holidays.

Free Access to ATHM Exhibitions



Throughout each year, ATHM provides many opportunities for the public to access the Museum free of charge. Our popular "Super Saturday" series of events are highly attended free admission days that also feature fun demonstrations and hands-on activities. ATHM also participates in the Highland Street Foundation's annual "Free Fun Friday" program, which attracts visitors from all over New England and beyond. This summer, ATHM also offered free admission to residents of Lowell and Lawrence all summer long through a grant from the Stevens Foundation. Be sure to check ATHM's website frequently for news on other upcoming free events!

Textile Times is a publication of the American Textile History Museum, distributed to our ATHM members. To learn about becoming a member, contact Maura Ryan at mryan@athm.org or (978) 441-0400 ext. 247.