

SAORI *Worcester's*

The Saori Bridges of Elm Park

This Exhibit Demonstrates 3 Things:

1. **The USA SAORI seed, transplanted in 2000 from Japan to Worcester, has fully taken root in the USA & Canada and is now a tree that bears native fruit coast to coast.** USA SAORI weavers from California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia; along with Canadian SAORI weavers from British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec, donated 90% of these banners. We left room for our Japanese siblings to show their support, and graciously they did so! The USA-Canada SAORI community is well-networked and constantly growing. This is but one demonstration of what we can now do together! Keep an eye on us! For more info, visit <http://saoriworcester.com/links.htm>
2. **SAORI makes us question our habitual ideas of “disability” by including everyone as a unique and capable artist.** Within the improvisational art of SAORI, we all face different challenges and we overcome them through weaving together. People we might label as “high-functioning” often face the hardest challenge of being too busy and pre-occupied to explore the arts, or too sure that they are “not-artists.” Within this exhibit, banners by weavers who have faced that challenge hang side-by-side with those of weavers who have transcended challenges of a developmental, emotional, or physical nature, including autism, cerebral palsy, low vision, brain trauma, and panic disorder. **There’s nobody here but us SAORI weavers – no other labels necessary.**
3. **All SAORI Weavers in this show are confident that SPONSORS will step up to claim every single banner by making donations to ARTS Worcester’s SAORI Scholarship Fund.** An expected \$12,000+ will enable a dozen or more low-income, at-risk youth to continue SAORI training to the point where they are able to **fund their own tuition** through the sale of their art and other creative efforts organized by our studio. These weavers will blend with fellow studio members of all ages to create a powerful cultural force in our community. **All labor, materials, and shipping costs of every banner in this exhibit were donated by artists who believe Sponsors will “adopt” their banners. We, who know Worcester, think this confidence is justified.**

To discuss being a Banner Sponsor, leave your contact info at our table, or contact us at 508-757-4646 / mihoko@saoriworcester.com