

## **Press Release: Loom in Essence 2018**

SAORI Worcester proudly announces the opening of “Loom in Essence 2018,” a Freestyle Weaving Group Exhibition and Holiday Market at the Sprinkler Factory Gallery, 38 Harlow Street, Worcester MA through Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with an opening reception on Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 4-7pm. The mini fashion show will be around 5:30 pm.

SAORI weaving is an improvisational, contemporary art form from Japan. Its philosophy is based on the Zen principles of spontaneity and self discovery. No patterns are utilized; thus no two pieces are ever alike.

The exhibition features over 100 work of a wide variety of items made by 22 artists who have and had taken classes at SAORI Worcester studio at 18 Winslow Street, Worcester. Some of them have been learning for more than ten years. SAORI Worcester begun in 2000 by Mihoko Wakabayashi, was the first SAORI weaving studio in the United States. After having it on Highland Street for 5years, it moved to the current location in 2009. Because Mihoko is one of few trainers for a certified SAORI instructor in US, her studio hosts students from all over the country. Now her studio focuses on teaching so the annual exhibition is an opportunity for students and Mihoko to showcase what people have been creating there.

Art work in this exhibition are wall hangings, scarves, shawls, pillows, bags, and wearable art such as vests, tunics and jackets. All work is woven by hand on a loom with materials of artists’ choice. They are mostly fiber from wool, cotton, rayon, silk, acrylic, mohair, cashmere and mixed natural & synthetic materials, however, some work are incorporated with barks, sea glasses, beads, and other objects. Mihoko has just completed a new project called Seed to Fashion funded by Worcester Arts Council. It is a six month program to raise indigo plants at a community garden and weave a scarf with fiber dyed with the plants at the end. Her woven pieces with yarn dyed with indigo will be included in the show.

They are so different from traditional woven pieces thus truly unique and pure one-of-a-kind art. Many of them are for sale. The installation of all work together embraces the free spirit of individual weavers and the luminescence of fabric created with SAORI philosophy of inclusion and expressive creativity.

This is the third exhibition of its kind at the Sprinkler Factory Gallery.