



Paula J. Bowers



Fiber Art



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The Art of Paula Bowers is creating striking visual statements in major office buildings and private spaces around the country.

Paula is a nationally celebrated, award winning, Fiber Artist.

Her works are prominently featured in some of America's most beautiful buildings. In retail, office, hotel and medical centers her works are the artistic centerpiece wherever they are shown. Her custom designed fiber pieces are also proudly displayed in the private homes of prestigious clients as a treasured part of their art collections.

Paula's work celebrates the architecture that surrounds them, adding warmth and an orchestra of color and texture.

This book captures the essence of Paula's art. It tells the story of many of her most celebrated pieces. The pages are alive with color; the 3 Dimensional pieces captivating in their depth. Here is art that fascinates; that is at once unique, and yet filled with the common elements that surround us in nature.

Travel with her on her fascinating journey. Each time you look at her art you will see something new. As the light around it changes, new aspects of her art are revealed. As you view it you will experience the vibrant enthusiasm felt by art lovers across the country for her work.

Start your journey now...

**The Art of Paula J. Bowers
beckons on the pages that follow.**

Sapphire Pond



This triptych is made in the wet felt technique using loose wool roving and natural silk fibers. The shimmering smoothness and prism-like qualities of silk contribute to the reflecting light of the piece. As the work is developed, soapy water is applied and the fibers are agitated. They become hopelessly tangled and start to shrink into the solid cloth that is called felt.

The surface design includes usable, collected and reused items such as the natural mica rock that is hand-split into very thin and translucent pieces to highlight the illusion of flowing water in a pond.

Size: (3) 24" x 24" Lobby, Mid Michigan Medical Center, Midland, MI



Joy



There really isn't a day that goes by where joy doesn't enter into my life, even if it's in the most unexpected way. This piece sprang from that place in my heart. Using vibrant, jewel toned wool fibers, hand felted with shimmering threads of silk, I created the base for multiple objects in glass, metal, wood, feather, and recycled symbols generating subtle energies. Covering the piece are opalescent, transparent and opaque layers of mica, prompting the viewer to look beyond the illusion of the surface to find JOY emerging.

Size: 4' x 4' Lobby, Mid Michigan Medical Center, Midland, MI.



Come Fly With Me



This piece is about my daughters and me. They are on the verge of leaving the sheltered nest, youthful dreams of what they would be when they grew up. Their dreams are flights of imagination creating what is possible. Dreaming allows our souls to soar and even direct our lives. I've held my birds with an open hand, always whispering, "Envision BIG!"

When watching the creation of this piece, one of my daughters said, "But Mom, they don't have eyes." I replied, "See and feel with your heart! It will take courage to live in the uncertainty and mystery of exactly how you'll get there. Trust the strength of your own wings." Tap into Source and fly in the direction of your desire. These birds of fanciful flight are hand felted into cloth using vibrant wool fibers and shimmering threads of silk sewn on top on sculptured, undulating forms.

So come on.....let go, have faith, Come Fly With Me!

Size: 5'6" x 14'



The Universal Dream



The Universal Dream is a multi-faceted piece spanning thought and action. It incorporates and integrates crossing bridges from the logical to the spiritual to the ethereal. There is an intuitive ability to reveal itself through the flow of the felted fabric layered with silk threads with objects generating subtle energies and providing an awakening of senses. It encourages us to open our eyes, hearts and souls to the possibilities surrounding us. It is an invitation to be carried along streams of consciousness and the eternal possibilities reflected in our dreams.

Size: 48" x 54"



Swirl



Size: 46" Round

Sometimes our life is like a whirlwind, a swirling journey taking us down one path and up a ladder. Flow is everything. Everything has its own time. Stay in the moment. Be Still. Listen. The way will become clear. Ponder less about detail, worry, noise and illusions. Open the door, let in the everyday magic of life. Breathe in the peace. Turn inward, find your path.

The River



The River is hand felted using wool and silk fibers. Mica rock and copper patina leaves are used as surface design.

I kneel down by the river's edge. Curiously, I move in closer to follow the dappled sunlight reflecting off the river. I cup my hand in the cool water, and watch as the ripples expand across the surface.

Below, I notice a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns, the settled composition of seasons and ages past. Leaves float downward, weightless, with a twisting and buoyant motion. They churn on the water, catch in jams and swirl until they break free on a new path.

In this moment I realize that it is the river's nature to move on, and so must I.

Size: 3'x 6' Private Residence, Northern Michigan

In The Flow



Size: 34" x 10'

In The Flow



Size: 34" x 10'

In the Flow is the interpretation of our journey through life, undulating and echoing a musical octave. In the ebb and flow of the rhythm of life, its eight waves incorporate the elements at the heart of our existence - Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. Water ushered us into the world. It is the key to sustaining our flow through life. Fire gives us spirit, warmth and renewal. Wind moves us in all directions, at times in directions we wouldn't go. Earth is our home and tracks us on our journey. Time moves us in all directions; it rushes downstream, collects in pools, appears to bottleneck us and travels back to its source in deep, calm tides. The past does not always determine the future and the future may not influence the past. We have the crystal of choice in our hands. With the river of timelessness endings are beginnings, beginnings can be endings, there is life in death and death in life. Enjoy your journey downstream in the flow of your life.

KoOlina Pond



Size: 32" x 42"

I could sit and watch the koi fish swimming at the KoOlina Resort fish pond for hours. It was mesmerizing and relaxing. This piece is all hand felted into cloth using jewel toned wool fibers and shimmering strands of silk. I use a variety of things for the surface design: thin layers of iridescent mica rock, feather, key, stones, crystals, fused glass and metals.



Aloha



Size: 5' x 5'6" Private Residence, Evergreen CO.

In Between



Size: 42" x 50" Conference Room, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber. Grand Rapids, MI.

Winds of Change



Size: 39" x 42" Private Residence, Grand Haven, MI



A Story Size: 4' x 10' Cascade Library, Grand Rapids, MI.



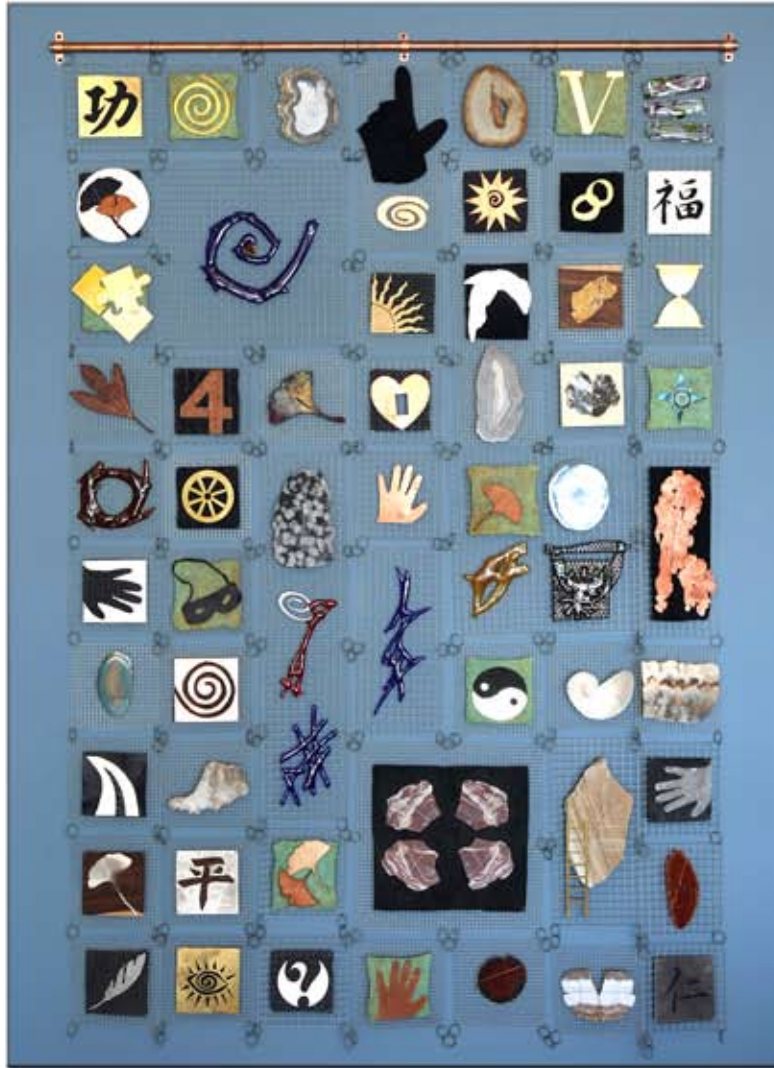
Essence of Time



Commissioned Fiber Mixed Media using symbols unique to the client.

Size: (3) 4' x 3'6" Private Residence, West Bloomfield, MI.

The Journey



Size: 4' x 6'

Private Residence - Grand Rapids, MI

Ties that Bind



Private Residence - Evergreen CO

Size: 6' x 7'

Working with shapes and symbols unique to the client, I incorporated hand felted pieces with wood, metal, glass, crystal, rock and found objects.

Leaves

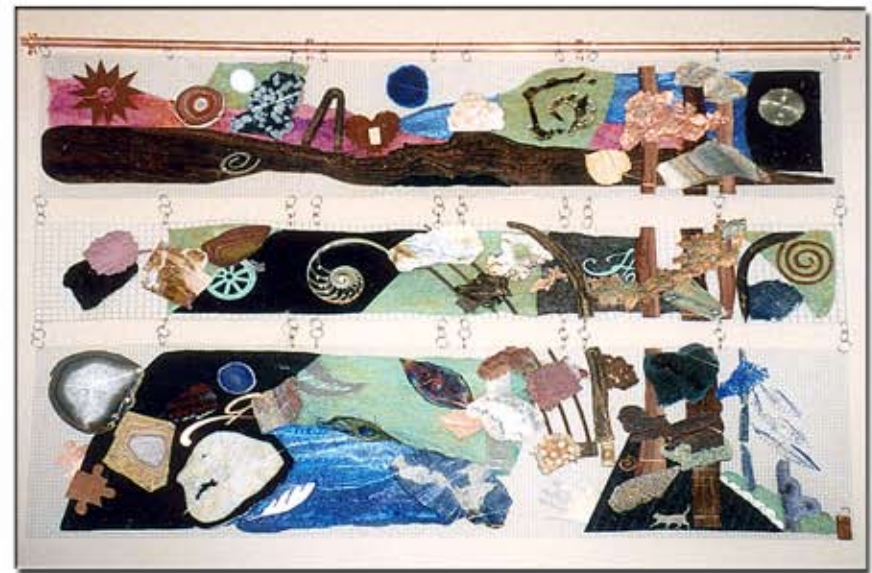


Size: 4' x 8' Lobby, West Michigan Design Center, Grand Rapids, MI.



Size: 3' x 5' Private Residence, Evergreen CO.

Fiber Mixed Media



Size: 2'6" x 3' Private Residence, Littleton, CO.

La Vita Nuova
L & C Landmark Center Tower
Nashville, TN



13 hand woven panels suspended in atrium. L & C Landmark Center, Nashville, TN. 255 sf. Client Objective: To add life to Nashville's first office tower built in 1959. Design Strategy: Survey motifs which reflect unique features of the Tennessee Landscape, using jeweled color tones. To preserve visibility in the space, an innovative translucent weaving technique was originated, and synthetic, metallic mylar yarns were custom spun and woven in a dynamic design.

Phases

Steelcase Corporate Development Center Grand Rapids, MI



Size: 5' x 30' Steelcase Corporate Development Center, Grand Rapids, MI.
Client Objective: Client envisioned a futuristic, cutting edge, inspiring design in a building created to foster innovation and creativity for the nation's largest office systems manufacturer. Design Strategy: Use bold color and a dynamic geometric in a single panel which recalls the energy and motion of the 6 story sculptural pendulum.

Synergy

Vanderbilt Plaza Center

Nashville, TN



Size: (3) 3' x 19' Part of a series of 29 hand woven panels. 322 sf. Vanderbilt Plaza Office Center, Nashville, TN. Client Objective: Capture the architecture's special personality and extend it to the main business lobby and six floors. Design Strategy: Create a flame-like design in a spectrum of colors swirling upward in the main lobby and evoke the theme in synergy on the remaining building levels.

Reflections
One Dallas Center
Dallas, TX



8 Hand woven panels, 112 sf. Lobby, One Dallas Center Building, Dallas, TX. Client Objective: To select artwork for permanent collection in display cases running the length of the main lobby. Design Strategy: Pierce through the tinted glass with potent color in a modern, angular series of designs evocative of stained glass.

Phases II
South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL



178 sf. 4 panels suspended from the ceiling and 2 single 6' x 8' panel wall hangings. 222 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL. Client Objective: To add color, energy, warmth and sound softening to a high traffic public space and to provide a bold counterpoint to the white travertine marble. Design Strategy: Use bold color and motion in a dynamic, geometric design extended through two large lobbies.



Triad
Triad Building
Dallas TX



12 Handwoven panels suspended from the atrium lobby ceiling and 2 single panel wall hangings.
Client Objective: To add festive color and visual interest to public areas of office/retail development.
Design Strategy: Enhance the dramatic, curved central focal point of the grand lobby chromed staircase while recalling architectural colors and textures.

Landscape

Texas Commerce Tower

Dallas, TX



19 Hand woven panel wall hanging attached to the wall in a 3-D tiered design.
Client Objective: A warm, textural work to soften and brighten a brown granite-dominated lobby and to recall the tiered ceiling details. Design Strategy: Create a stepped series of frames using a free-flowing, landscape horizon design which enhances the texture and color of the granite.

20 and 21 Custom House Boston, MA



Size: 3' x 5'6" Part of a series of 4 hand woven tapestries for 20 and 21 Custom House . Boston, MA. Client Objective: To brighten the lobbies dominated by grey granite. Design Strategy: Create a striking, geometric design in bold colors. Three other tapestries in abstract, free-flowing and landscape horizon designs complete the series which soften and add a warm focal point to both lobbies.



In The Garden

Galleria Mall
Atlanta, GA



12 hand woven tapestry panels. Client Objective: To recall the award-winning landscape park and draw the attention of retail visitors to a second floor area. Design Strategy: To bring the outdoors in, using specially spun metallic mylar yarns in an eye catching impressionistic floral pattern. The fabric's reflectivity is enhanced by natural sunlight generating a shimmering quality that captivates the eye.

Wind Blown Leaves
Foremost Insurance Headquarters
Grand Rapids, MI



13 hand woven tapestry panels. Client Objective: To bring color and warmth to this space. Design Strategy: To bring the outdoors in, using specially spun metallic mylar yarns in a flowing leaf pattern omnidirectionally to be seen from all angles and floors. The fabric's reflectivity is enhanced by natural sunlight generating a shimmering quality that captivates the eye.

Currents
PNC Bank
Kalamazoo, MI



4' x 6' 3 piece hand woven tapestry. Client Objective: To recall the river and bring the outdoors in. Design Strategy: To bring all the colors in the space together in one colorful work of art. The shape makes it look like another chair in the room.

Wings
Fetzer Institute
Kalamazoo, MI



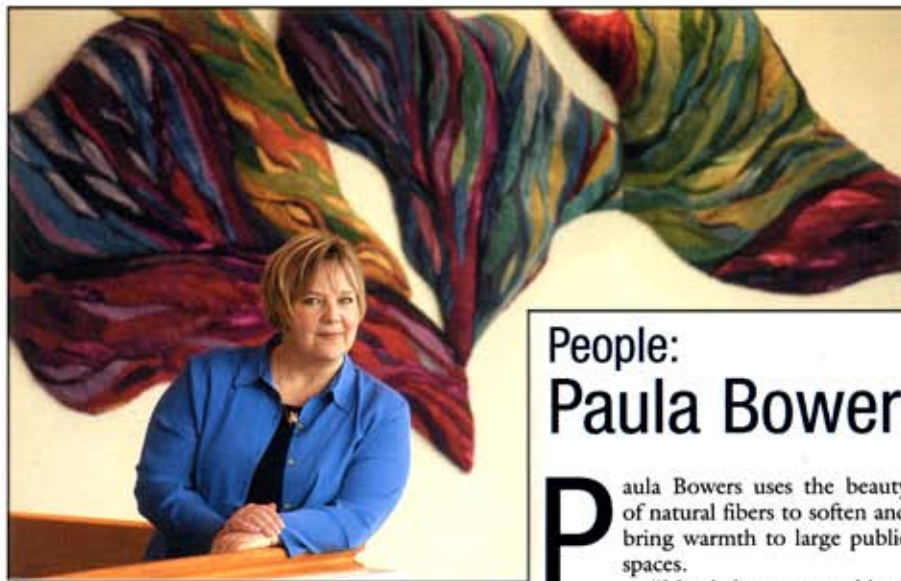
7' x 14' 3 sculptural wall hangings. Client Objective: To add dynamic color and create sound softening because of the waterfall and massive windows in the space. Design Strategy: Use bold colors taken from the rug below and create sound softening through the 1 foot depth of the piece. The shape created a visual flow through the space.

Grand Rapids Magazine

Home & Design
Design

By Cliff Yankovich

Photography by Johnny Quirin



The Awakening Western Michigan University

Gilmore Theater Lobby
Kalamazoo, MI

People: Paula Bowers

Paula Bowers uses the beauty of natural fibers to soften and bring warmth to large public spaces.

"My dad was an architect and when I was young he took me to lots of buildings," she said. "There was a lot of glass and marble. I thought fiber would bring texture, softness and a human feel to that kind of environment."

Bowers' love affair with the bright colors and textures of tapestry began on a family trip to South America when she was 11. She saw girls her age weaving on looms attached to trees. Bowers' first commission occurred when she was 13. Her 28-foot-long macramé piece for a spiral staircase funded a trip to Mexico with the Girl Scouts.

Her latest creation, "The Awakening," was recently unveiled in the

lobby of the Gilmore Theatre on the Western Michigan University campus. The six separate pieces — which together comprise the whole — took the better part of a year and nearly 100 pounds of hand-spun and hand-dyed wool to create.

"I dreamed of a design that could portray us as a people pulling away from our hurts and rising to a new beginning," Bowers said.

After earning her degree in fine arts from the University of Michigan, Bowers hit the road for 10 years selling her creations in art shows and fairs around the country. Then she began to focus on creating client-centered work with an emphasis on site-specific designs. This meant she could incorporate a variety of design elements and objectives into the work to better effect a synergism of the tapestry within its architectural environ-

ment. It also meant creating some very large pieces.

"I love to work in a large scale; it represents a challenge," she said. "One series used over nine miles of yarn totaling 322 square feet of tapestry."

Bowers' creativity has also expressed itself in painting, sculpture and mixed media, but tapestry and fiber remain her first love.

Her striking visual statements are featured in office buildings in West Michigan as well as across the nation. Locally, Bowers' work can be appreciated in the Steelcase Corporate Development Center, Foremost Insurance, Spectrum Butterworth and numerous residential projects. She also has creations gracing major office buildings in such far-flung locales as Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Nashville, Atlanta and Los Angeles. **GR**

The Art of



Paula J. Bowers

Nationally Celebrated
Award Winning

Fiber Artist

Dallas, TX
Texas Commerce
Tower



Nashville, TN
L&C Landmark Center



Atlanta, GA
Galleria Mall



Grand Rapids, MI
Steelcase CDC Bldg.



Chicago, IL
Riverside Plaza



Boston, MA
Custom House



Grand Rapids, MI
Foremost Building



Dallas, TX
Triad Building



Kalamazoo, MI
Fetzer Institute



Nashville, TN
Vanderbilt Center



Across America... hundreds of thousands of people have admired Paula's work. Thousands have seen her works in the world's largest art competition, *ArtPrize* in Grand Rapids, MI, and in the famed *Juried Art Fair* in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Whether on display in Art Galleries, in public spaces, or private homes, the striking designs, the flow, the color, of Paula's art captivates the viewer. Her work is excitingly fresh, and dramatically compelling. It surges with energy, vitality, and optimism.

Paula uses a creative strategy that she calls a "*Client Centered Approach*." Her goal is to meet the precise needs of her clients, while maintaining her creative intensity to design works of art that transform the spaces involved into places of beauty.

This approach has also been highly successful in her work as Regional Manager for *Scott Group Studio* where she supports the design and architectural community in their desire to specify and create cutting edge, artistic, and beautiful rugs.

Paula lives in Grand Rapids, MI. She has two daughters and is a world traveler.

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Paula J. Bowers



**Wings, Fetzer Institute
Kalamazoo, MI**

EDUCATION:

Paula received her *Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree*, specializing in Weaving and Fabric Design, from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI in 1977. During her time at the University of Michigan she studied under an internationally known weaver.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

- The University of London
- College Messicano, Rome
- College Franco-Britannique, Paris
- Field studies, Athens

She discovered Fiber Art Traditions through extensive travel in Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Columbia. She first began weaving tapestries on Navajo looms, and later on Cranbrook Looms.

Paula's artistic depth and understanding was further enhanced by observation of fiber traditions through further travel and study in: Central America, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, South Africa, Turkey and Hawaiian and Navajo communities of the Southwest United States.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

In 2005 she served as Artist in Residence in 9 schools in the Forest Hills Public School District

AN AWARD WINNING ARTIST

Paula has received numerous awards. Among those awards she received 9 First Place awards from the Michigan Fiber Festival.

AMAZING WOMEN OF WEST MICHIGAN
Paula J. Bowers - Featured in the book
Amazing Women of West Michigan 2006

Contact Paula today for a -

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For your -

- Home • Office • Conference Room • Lobby

Choose -

- The Right Colors • The Right Design • The Right Materials
- The Right Size • The Right Placement

for your Space

*Paula's artistic eye will help you transform your space into
a beautiful welcoming design with stunning art that fits your budget*

For your complimentary
consultation, or for more
information, call -



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