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Symposium 2016

Crosscurrents: Land, Labor, and the Port
Textile Society of America’s 15th Biennial Symposium

Savannah, GA, October 19-23, 2016
Organized in Partnership with Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)

View the Program Outline

About

The 2016 Textile Society of America Symposium will take place in Savannah, Georgia on the campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. To maximize scholarly interchange, the Symposium will consist of multiple, concurrent sessions, plenary and keynote speakers, a poster session and curated exhibitions that will intersect with the scholarly program. In addition to the symposium sessions and exhibitions, there will be a series of dynamic pre- and post-conference workshops and study tours to local and regional art institutions and collections, receptions, special programs, and an awards ceremony.

Organizers

Academic Program Co-Chairs: Jessica Smith, Professor of Fibers and Susan Falls, Professor of Anthropology, Savannah College of Art and Design
Exhibitions Chair: Liz Sargent, Professor of Fibers, Savannah College of Art and Design

Location

Most Symposium programming takes place at the Hyatt Regency Savannah located along the waterfront at 2 W. Bay St, Savannah, GA 31401. Special programs take place around Savannah’s historic district including the keynote address, contemporary exhibitions, site seminars, tours and workshops.

Theme

For Crosscurrents: Land, Labor, and the Port, we invited participants to explore the ways in which textiles shape, and are shaped by historical, geographical, technological and economic aspects of colonization and/or globalization. How and why have textile practices moved around? As they travel, how have they been translated, modified, or used within acts of compliance or resistance? What impact have different regimes of labor, consumption, aesthetic valuation, or political/social economy had on textile production, use, and circulation? These questions apply to contemporary or historical fine art, utilitarian, or ethnographic textiles, and are addressed through scholarship or creative practice.

Due to its location and history, the southern United States is an ideal place to examine the interaction between local practices and global markets. Contributions explore textile practice in the broader contexts of agriculture, labor, innovation, or exchange. Papers represent a range of historic and contemporary perspectives on the role of technology and alternative economies in shaping design, production, circulation, consumption, exhibition, collection, valuation, interpretation and use of textiles.

Presenters come from around the world and represent a range of textile-related disciplines and interdisciplinary areas, including but not limited to history, anthropology, archaeology, art, conservation, geography, design, economics, ethnic studies, history, linguistics, material culture studies, mathematics, science, political science, sociology, and theater, among others. In addition to our usual submission categories (papers, organized sessions, roundtables, films and other media), for 2016 we extended the call to include poster sessions and curated exhibitions that will be on view at seven Savannah galleries.
Location  Savannah, Georgia

Keynote

Lenore G. Tawney/TSA Keynote Address


Friday, October 21st, 6pm at The Lucas Theatre

Plenaries

Opening Plenary Panel

“Crosscurrents: The Transnational Flows of Textiles”

Lynne Milgram is Professor of Anthropology at OCAD University, Toronto, Canada. Her research on gender, development, and urbanization in the Philippines analyzes the cultural politics of social change regarding women’s work in crafts, the Hong Kong-Philippine secondhand clothing trade, and street vending. With growing Philippine urbanization, Milgram’s current research investigates transformations of urban public space use and issues of formal/informal, legal/illegal work regarding peoples’ rights to public market trade. Milgram has published this research in journals and edited volumes and has guest edited special issues of Asian Studies Review (2005) and City & Society (2014). Milgram’s selected co-edited volumes include, (with P. Van Esterik) The Transformative Power of Cloth in Southeast Asia (1994); (with K. Grimes) Artisans and Cooperatives: Developing Alternative Trade for the Global Economy (2000); (with R. Hamilton) Material Choices: Refashioning Bast and Leaf Fibers in Asia and the Pacific (2007); and (with K. T. Hansen and W. Little) Street Economies of the Urban Global South (2013).
Giorgio Riello is Professor of Global History and Culture and Director of the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick, UK. He is the author of A Foot in the Past (OUP 2006) and Cotton: The Fabric that Made the Modern World (CUP 2013; pb 2015 – recipient of the World History Association Book Prize 2014) and has published extensively on the history of textiles and fashion in early modern Europe and Asia. He is the co-editor of Shoes (2006; pb 2011); The Spinning World (OUP 2009; pb 2012); and How India Clothed the World (Brill 2009; pb 2012) and Writing Material Culture History (Bloomsbury 2014) and several other volumes. In 2011 he was awarded the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize. He has also been a visiting fellow at Stanford University, and The National University of Australia, and a visiting professor at The European University Institute and Columbia University. In 2016 he was the recipient of the Iris Foundation Award for his contribution to the Decorative Arts and Material Culture and he published Luxury: A Rich History (OUP, co-authored with Peter McNeil).
Stephanie Syjuco: From the Global to the Local (and Back Again): The Practice of Cultural Contestation and Reinvention

**Stephanie Syjuco** creates large-scale spectacles of collected cultural objects, cumulative archives, and temporary vending installations, often with an active public component that invites viewers to directly participate as producers or distributors. Working primarily in sculpture and installation, her projects leverage open-source systems, shareware logic, and flows of capital, in order to investigate issues of economies and empire. Recent projects include a collaboration with the FLACC Workplace for Visual Artists in Belgium on a body of works utilizing 3-D scanning of Belgian and Congolese antiquities to produce hybrid ceramic objects addressing the legacy of colonialism, empire, and trade routes. She is a 2014 Guggenheim Fellow and is currently developing a two-year project commission for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art under the topic of “Public Knowledge,” excavating and amplifying hidden bodies of knowledge within the city. Born in the Philippines, she received her MFA from Stanford University and BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. She has shown extensively nationally and internationally, and her work has been included in exhibitions at MoMA/P.S.1, the Whitney Museum of American Art, SFMOMA, ZKM Center for Art and Technology, Germany; Z33 Space for Contemporary Art, Belgium; the Havana Biennial, The Asian Art Biennial, and The California Biennial, among others. She is represented by Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and Ryan Lee Gallery in New York. She is an Assistant Professor in Sculpture at the University of California, Berkeley and lives and works in Oakland.
Sponsors & Donors

Donate Here

The TSA symposium would not be possible without our donors and sponsors who support the programs that make this biennial event such an amazing experience. In an extraordinary gesture, we are very pleased to announce that TSA has received an Endowment from the Lenore G. Tawney Foundation, with an initial gift of $55,000, to support symposia keynote speakers on a biennial basis. Individual donors are invited to contribute to the endowment. The Tawney Foundation generously supported TSA scholarships in 2014. Lenore Tawney created the foundation in 1989 to provide support for charitable and educational purposes, including craft media.

We gratefully acknowledge the Robert and Ardis James Foundation for their continued support of the biennial symposium. This year, their gift of $10,000 supports our plenary speakers who address the ways in which textiles shape, and are shaped by historical, geographical, technological and economic aspects of colonialization and/or globalization. The couple for which the foundation is named launched the International Quilt Study Center and Museum in Lincoln, NE in 1997 with their gift of nearly 1,000 quilts.

We would like to thank Lloyd and Margit Cotsen for their generous donation in support of the 2016 TSA symposium publications. Their gift along with the past support of the Cotsen Family Foundation continues to support the dissemination of knowledge about textiles worldwide.

Savannah College of Art and Design, our partner in organizing this symposium, has made a significant inkind contribution through the donation of event space, transportation services, AV, and many hours of organizing support by administrators and faculty.

We are also thankful to all the individual members who have contributed—from $10 to $10,000—towards our programs, as all of these donations make a difference. And, of course, your membership—whether General, Supporting, Sustaining, or Patron levels of membership—all are important as we carry out our mission.

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$55,000 Endowment from the Lenore G. Tawney Foundation to support Symposia keynote speakers
$10,000 from the Robert & Ardis James Foundation to support our 2016 plenary speakers

$10,000 from Lloyd and Margit Cotsen to support 2016 Symposium Publications

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We thank the many donors who donated to the Brandford Elliott Award during our spring fundraising campaign to ensure the award’s future as it moves under the purview of TSA.

**How to Contribute / Sponsorship Opportunities**

Donate to support [symposium scholarships](#)

Become a [Sponsor](#)
Workshops and Tours

Wednesday, October 19

Tour: “King Cotton” Walking Tour

Limited to 20 participants per session
Location: Leave from hotel
Time: AM Session 9:30 am -11:30 am
PM Session 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Tour leader: Vaughnette Goode-Walker

Student Members (limit 2 spaces): $15
Members: $25
Nonmembers: $35

Sunday, October 23

Workshop: Contemporary Natural Dye Painting on Fabric

Limited to 15 participants
Location: SCAD, Pepe Hall, 212 West Taylor Street
**Workshop: Ancient Peruvian Discontinuous Warp and Weft Weaving**

Limited to 12 participants  
**Location:** Pepe Hall, 212 West Taylor Street  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**Workshop leaders:** Catharine Ellis and Jane Rehl

**Student Members** (limit 2): $100  
**Members:** $175  
**Nonmembers:** $215

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**Workshop: Seductive Scripts: Myanmar Tablet Weaving**

Limited to 15 participants  
**Location:** Pepe Hall, 212 West Taylor Street  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**Workshop leader:** Tomoko Torimaru (+ Rowland Ricketts, translator)
Student Members (limit 2): $100  
Members: $175  
Nonmembers: $215

Workshop: In Situ: A Dyeing-in-Place Hands-on Workshop on the Colonial History and Practice of Indigo

Limited to 14 participants  
Location: Ossabaw Island  
Time: 8:00 am – 5:30 pm  
Workshop leaders: Donna Hardy and Elizabeth DuBose

Student Members (limit 2): $150  
Members: $250  
Nonmembers: $290

Tour: Ossabaw Island’s Indigo History

Limited to 22 participants  
Time: 8:00 am – 5:30 pm  
Location: Ossabaw Island  
Tour leader: Paul Pressly

Student Members (limit 2): $100  
Members: $175  
Nonmembers: $215
Site Seminars

Friday October 21, 2:15 – 5:15pm

On Friday afternoon we take a break from the hotel to attend off-site seminars around Savannah. These seminars are included in the costs of symposium registration. Spaces in each are limited. We encourage you to register early to ensure you are able to participate in your first choice. For descriptions of each, please click the titles below.

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**A LandscapeBuilt by Cotton**

Limited to 30 registrants  
**Location:** leave from hotel  
**Program leader:** Robin B. Williams

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**Arimatsu to Africa: Shibori Trade, Techniques, and Patterns**

Limited to 100 registrants  
**Location:** SPACE Black Box  
**Program leader:** Yoshiko Wada

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**An Enslaved Woman and her Dressmaker Daughter**

Limited to 30 registrants  
**Location:** First African Baptist Church  
**Program leader:** Kathleen Curtis Wilson

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**Ashley’s Sack and the Davenport Dolls: Preserving & Interpreting Lowcountry History**

Limited to 30 registrants  
**Location:** Davenport House  
**Program leaders:** Jamie Credle, Jeff Neal
Clothing and the British Atlantic World

This site seminar is full.

Limited to 20 registrants
**Location:** Georgia Historical Society  
**Program leader:** Paul Pressly

Cotton, Beads & Sugar: Textile Triangulations of Coastal Exchange between India, Africa, and the US

This site seminar is full.

Limited to 30 registrants  
**Location:** Whitfield Gallery  
**Program leader:** Namita Wiggers

Curator-led Tour of SCAD Museum of Art exhibition

Limited to 30 registrants

**Location:** SCAD Museum of Art  
**Program leader:** Storm Janse van Rensburg, Head Curator, SCAD Exhibitions

Heavy Metal: A behind-the-scenes look at the Costume Collection in the SCAD Museum of Art

Limited to 15 registrants

**Location:** SCAD Museum of Art  
**Program leader:** Carmela Spinelli

Mending as Metaphor
Limited to 20 registrants
**Location:** Pepe Hall  
**Workshop leaders:** Ruth Katzenstein Souza, Susan Brown and Nika Feldman

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**Needlework at St. Vincent’s Academy**

Limited to 15 registrants  
**Location:** St. Vincent’s Academy  
**Program leader:** Kathleen Staples

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**Southern Botanical Quilts: a Quilt Turning**

Limited to 20 registrants  
**Location:** Telfair Academy  
**Program leader:** Jan Heister

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**Under Cover: Savannah Quilts and Coverlets**

Limited to 30 registrants  
**Location:** Savannah History Museum  
**Program leader:** Bonnie S. Carter

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**Vernacular Textiles in the Global Context: Film screening of Entrejido and Coton Jaune**

Limited to 100 registrants  
**Location:** SCAD Museum Auditorium  
**Program leaders:** Patricia Alvarez, Sharon Donnan, Elaine Bourque
Awards Banquet Dinner

Hyatt Hotel Ballroom, Saturday, October 22, 2016, 7-10pm

Join us as we celebrate exemplary textile scholarship and art with the recipients and nominees of the following awards:

**The Founding Presidents Award**, recognizing excellence in the field of textile studies in honor of the TSA’s 5 founding presidents Peggy Gilfoy, Milton Sonday, Lotus Stack, Mattiebelle Gittinger and Louise W. Mackie;

**The Brandford-Elliott Award**, given to an emerging artist in recognition of excellence in contemporary fiber art, honoring the late fiber artists Joanne Segal Brandford and Lillian Elliott;

**Student/New Professional Award**, presented to student and new professionals in the textiles field who demonstrate exceptional promise for the future;

**R.L. Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award**, given annually to a publication judged to be the best nominated book in the field of ethnic textile studies, funded by an endowment established by R.L. Shep in 2000.

**TSA Fellows**, a new program to recognize and honor individuals who have over the course of their careers, made path-breaking contributions to the field, in textile scholarship, education, art, or in sustaining textile arts globally, awarded biennially.

The awards banquet dinner is included in the cost of full symposium registration. If you are registering for individual day passes or would like to bring a guest, additional tickets are available for purchase.
**Exhibitions**

All exhibitions have been organized in partnership with [Art Rise Savannah](#).

**Opening Reception**
Thursday, October 20th – 6pm to 9pm
*Tour the exhibitions at the different sites throughout town during the opening reception.*

**Gallery Hours**
Friday & Saturday, October 21st – 22nd 12pm to 5pm

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**Arimatsu to Africa: Shibori trade, Techniques, and Patterns**

**Cultural Arts Gallery**, Operated by the City of Savannah’s Department of Cultural Affairs
9 West Henry Street
**Curated by** Yoshiko Wada

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**Between: Layering Context in Patchwork**

**Jelinek Creative Spaces**
101 Fahm Street
**Curated by** Molly Evans Fox
**Exhibiting Artists:** Sonja Dahl, Jess Jones, Rachel Meginnes

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**Cotton, Beads & Sugar: Textile Triangulations of Coastal Exchange between India, Africa, & US**

**The Whitefield**
106 E 37th St.
**Curated by** Namita Gupta Wiggers
**Exhibiting Artists:** Surabhi Ghosh and Raksha Parekh + objects assembled by Medha Bhatt and Namita Gupta Wiggers
Flotsam
Kaufman Gallery
422 Acton Court
Curated by Sarah Kabot
Participating Artists: Christi Birchfield, Elana Herzog, Elizabeth Duffy, Lauren Kalman, David Krofta, Simone Schiffmacher, Justin Woody

Indigo and Beyond
Cultural Arts Gallery, Operated by the City of Savannah’s Department of Cultural Affairs
9 West Henry Street
Curated by Catherine Ellis
Exhibiting Artists: Angelina DeAntonis, Catharine Ellis, Ana Lisa Hedstrom, Bethanne Knudson, Joan Morris, Elin Noble, Eduardo and Maria Portillo, Amy Putansu, Jay Rich, Rowland Ricketts, Chimani Ricketts, Barbara Shapiro, Amanda Thatch, Yoshiko Wada, and Barbara Zaretsky

Source & Sequence: Digital Weaving by Joanne Arnett, Janice Lessman-Moss & Bhakti Ziek

Oglethorpe Gallery
406 East Oglethorpe Avenue
Curated by Janice Lessman-Moss
Exhibiting Artists: Joanne Arnett, Janice Lessman-Moss, and Bhakti Ziek

The Woven Cosmos: Visualizing the Invisible through Textile, Modern Science, and Ancient Worldviews
Non-Fiction Gallery, Operated by Art Rise Savannah, Inc
1522 Bull St.
Curated by Isaac Facio and Elizabeth Pope
Exhibiting Artists: Helen Yuanyuan Cao, Benedikt Diemer, Isaac Facio, Heather MacKenzie, David Martinez-Moreno, Elizabeth Pope
What Others Are Saying

“I was impressed with the extraordinary group of textile professionals who gathered for the 2014 Symposium. As a relatively new textile scholar, I was thrilled to meet so many of the historians and scholars whose work was instrumental to me in my studies. It was also exciting to meet contemporary textile artists whose work I have admired and studied. I am looking forward to Savannah/2016 and to continuing to build my network of learned and talented textile colleagues.” — Maleyne Syracuse

“As a textile artist/maker I value the opportunity to attend a conference where concepts, ideas, and history of textiles are every bit as important as the making.” — Catharine Ellis

“The cross-disciplinary character of the membership makes the symposium exciting. TSA brings together scholars, historians, artists, curators, students, educators, critics, and others. Attending the Symposium is an opportunity to hear the latest research, meet new colleagues, and make friendships that develop and strengthen over the years.” — Vita Plume

“I wanted to pass along my dearest thanks for the scholarship to the symposium. What a rich and wonderful event! I found the mix of historical, artistic, conceptual and craft dialogues to be extremely informative and inspiring. I didn’t get a chance to meet many of you and also wanted to say how lovely the exhibition is. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to experience the symposium! It felt amazing to be a part of a broader arts/fiber community and see what everyone is up to.” — Abbie Miller (artist, scholarship recipient)

“First of all, thank you so much for your support for the recent TSA symposium in Los Angeles. I very much enjoyed the meeting and had the opportunity to learn about new topics and issues in textile studies and to meet experts in the field.” — Sarah Baitzel (Student and New Professional Award Recipient)
Marketplace

Taking place October 20-22 at the Hyatt in Savannah’s historic district, the Symposium Marketplace features major textile publications, one-of-a-kind art, textile materials and tools, and fair trade, artisan-made textiles from around the world. The Marketplace is open to the public.

2016 Symposium Marketplace Vendors

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Marketplace Hours

Thursday, October 20th, 12:00PM-6:00PM
Friday, October 21st, 8:00AM-5:00PM
Saturday, October 22nd, 8:00AM-5:00PM, Members-only cocktail hour 5:00PM-6:30PM

Open to the Public

Please directed questions to marketplace@textilesociety.org