

Kelly Grotzinger's Weaving Studio

On a dreary day outside we were welcomed into Kelly's brightly lit weaving studio. Kelly has been weaving for 35 years – 10 years as a 20-yard 20/2 cotton warp weaver, suggestive of instruction at the Manning's , 20 years as what she calls a vacation weaver, and most recently as one dedicated to the craft. Her introduction to weaving began in a weaving class she took through the City of Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation. She recalls they wove on table looms while sitting on the floor. The yarn used was whatever people had donated, 'whatever' being key. She has come a long way since then, taking classes at the Manning's, Vavstuga, JC Campbell, and Marshfield School, along with hours of self-study.

As you enter the weaving area you are first greeted by some of her weavings that are hanging on the wall.

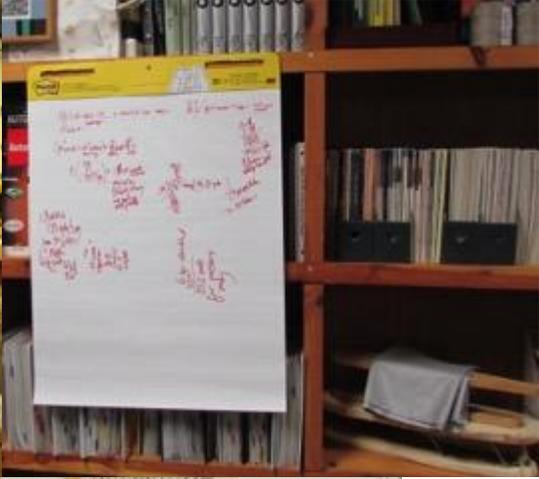


There are two sections to Kelly's weaving area. The first is shared with her husband who has been allocated a small section of the room. We need to note that Tim does have a separate building for his wood working projects. His fine craftsmanship is evident when we toured her home. He also makes many weaving tools Kelly may need. In the rest of the room she has a cutting area, shelves for books, yarn in several containers, a warping area, her newly acquired 8 harness Macomber – Baby Mac, and her Cranbrook (with a story).



Kelly's storage system is amazing. She has separate marked containers for rug wool, fabric, and core spun yarn. There are shelves for magazines, books, equipment, sewing supplies, specialty yarns and grid poster paper for calculations. The economist may leave research but the research never leaves the economist.





She is in the process of warping her newly acquired Baby Mac with linen for a Drall pattern-warp and weft blocks. Check out the recycled yardsticks and the twisted cords she makes to tie things together.



Her Cranbrook (The story? – Ask Kelly) will soon be warped with a linen warp 6 EPI for a weft-faced woven rug using Churro tapestry weight wool.



Next we enter what Kelly calls the weaving studio area. What a warm well lit room with an area to relax in front of the fireplace. The first loom you see is a Gallinger. She explains she is currently experiencing problems with broken threads and is in the process of problem solving by using her spool rack, bobbins and weighted rings. The warp may yet be subject to the scissors.



What is inside the beautiful wooden cabinets? Of course more yarn. She pulls out skeins her mother purchased at household auctions/sales--perfect for experiments in dyeing. Kelly also loves going to these events.



From another cabinet we see how Kelly puts together her own weaving kits. Once she finds a project she is interested in weaving she picks out her yarn, creates a label that tells her where she found the pattern, and then puts the yarn in a bag until she is ready to weave.



What a pleasure to visit Kelly's home and studio. We came away with many new ideas and appreciate her sharing. Also when Kelly says she is going to a sale you might like to go along.