



FIBERS OF APPALACHIA

A call for traditional and contemporary fiber work from Central Appalachia

During the first biennial exhibition at The Dairy Barn Arts Center, Athens, Ohio

Entry Fee: sliding scale from \$15 - \$65

Works may be listed as “Not for Sale”. If offered for sale, the artist receives 65%.

Fibers of Appalachia showcases the rich legacy and evolving future of textile traditions in Appalachia, bringing together both **traditional** and **contemporary** works in weaving, quilting, basketry, broom-making, soft sculpture, lace making, paper, braids, ropes and cordage, embroidery, garments, mending practices, and hemp-based practices. This exhibition highlights the deep cultural roots of fiber artistry in the region: crafts born from necessity, resourcefulness, and community, and celebrates how today’s artists continue to innovate within and beyond those traditions. *Fibers of Appalachia* honors the enduring heritage of Appalachian makers while illuminating the new directions and possibilities that sustain and reinvent fiber practices for future generations.

Please reach out to Erin McKenna (exhibitions@dairybarn.org) with any questions about submitting work to this exhibition.

KEY DATES

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: March 9 - May 3, 2026

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTED WORK: May 29, 2026

EXHIBITION AGREEMENT DUE: June 5, 2026

ARTWORK DELIVERY: June 22-26, 2026

ON VIEW: July 3 - August 30, 2026

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, July 3, 2026, 5pm-7pm

ARTWORK RETURNED BY: September 18, 2026

SUBMISSION AND EXHIBITION AGREEMENT TERMS

ELIGIBILITY

This call for entry is open to artists, makers, collectors, and community members connected to [Central, North Central and Northern Appalachia](#). In addition to submitting their own work, individuals may submit

fiber works made by others when they are the legal owner of the piece or have permission from the maker or maker's estate. This includes inherited, gifted, or collected works that hold cultural, familial, or regional significance.

Submissions of non-self-authored work should clearly identify the original maker whenever possible and include any known information about the work's history, materials, and context. These pieces are welcomed as a way to honor shared histories, intergenerational knowledge, and the many hands that shape Appalachian fiber traditions. All submissions will be reviewed with the same care and consideration, whether the work is newly made or passed down through generations.

MEDIA

Open to all traditional and non-traditional fiber artists. This includes quilts, weaving, baskets, brooms, rugs, knitting, crochet, paper, hemp based works, handmade paper, soft sculpture, and related practices. The Dairy Barn Arts Center's carefully assembled juries change from project to project, and have no collective predisposition towards any particular kind or style of art.

Fiber: any natural or synthetic strand, filament, or flexible material that serves as a foundational component in the creation of textiles and fiber-based art. This includes materials used in processes such as weaving, quilting, knitting, crochet, felting, basketry, papermaking, and soft sculpture, reflecting the diverse building blocks artists employ to construct both functional and expressive works.

DATE RESTRICTIONS

There are no date restrictions for this exhibition.

JURORS

Jurors will select artworks that reflect the depth, range, and ongoing evolution of Appalachian fiber practice. In addition to originality, design, technique, and craftsmanship, consideration will be given to works that demonstrate cultural continuity, material knowledge, intergenerational influence, and a meaningful connection to place. Submissions may be traditional, contemporary, functional, or experimental, and may be created by the maker or inherited through family or community. Priority will be given to works that embody the ingenuity, labor, and storytelling that have shaped fiber traditions across Appalachia over time. Acceptance will be granted based on digitally submitted images. The jury panel is composed of three individuals:

Talcon Quinn

Talcon Quinn is an Appalachian Folk Artist, generationally from Athens, Ohio. Her work aims to inspire an interconnected way of living.

Having devoted her life to learning, Talcon has mentored in beading, silver smithing, basketry, and numerous other early human art forms. She utilizes various methods of these traditional techniques to create personal articles of adornment. Her sustainable harvest and use of wild/urban crafted materials is an homage to her respect for our interconnectedness to the natural world and each other.

Beyond her work as an artist, Talcon curates events to uplift, celebrate, and preserve the cultural arts of the region through Living Traditions Event Series Southeast Ohio. Sharing knowledge and skills is one of Talcon's deepest passions. She hopes that through sharing traditional arts we can collectively begin to rekindle our sense of pride in place for Appalachia.

Vanessa Jo Bahr

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Vanessa is currently the Printmaking Professor and Studio Technician at Southern Oregon University and serves as an Advisor for the Print Club. She received a BFA from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, along with a Minor in Education and obtained an MFA and Arts Administration Certificate from Ohio University. In 2022, she founded Scavenger Studios, a printmaking studio in Ashland, Oregon, that facilitates classes, workshops, memberships and hosts a robust artist residency program. She is the Membership Manager for the Rocky Mountain Printmaking Alliance, on the Grant Committee for the Mid America Print Council and a member of Southern Graphics Council International. Her work encourages viewers to confront their interactions with the environment and reconsider their relationship with nature through her use of materials and illustration. She utilizes art as a form of activism and land stewardship that fosters mutualism and intimacy facilitated by the reciprocal act of printmaking.

Kelly Hider

Kelly Hider is a nationally exhibiting artist living in Knoxville, Tennessee. She received a BFA from SUNY Brockport in 2007, and an MFA from the University of Tennessee in 2011. Kelly has served as an arts administrator at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts for nearly ten years. Having recently been promoted to Director of National Programs, Hider has held two prior staff positions as Arrowmont's Gallery Manager, and Youth Education Programs Manager, where she established Arrowmont's outreach program, ArtReach on the Road, bringing craft education to K-12 youth throughout Central Appalachia. Hider also served on the Governing Board of Tennessee Craft from 2021-2025.

Finding inspiration from found photographs, Hider's personal work uses painterly surface manipulations to celebrate ephemeral moments, and to explore ideas of absence and presence. Solo exhibitions include ones at Unrequited Leisure in Nashville, the Clayton Arts Center in Maryville, TN, and Lincoln Memorial University. Hider's work was featured on the cover of the independent art journal, Number: Inc. in 2016, and she has twice been awarded Ann & Steve Bailey Opportunity Grants through the Arts & Culture Alliance's Heritage Fund in Knoxville. A proud Hambidge Fellow, Hider completed an artist residency at the Hambidge Center in Rabun Gap, Georgia in 2019. You can learn more about Kelly Hider's exhibition record and professional experience here: www.kellyhider.com.

AWARDS

The Dairy Barn Arts Center is awarding \$800 in prize money. The following awards will be chosen by the jurors:

- **Award for Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Fiber — \$200**
Presented to the work that most powerfully reflects the depth, skill, and evolving legacy of Appalachian fiber practice.

- **Material Ingenuity Award – \$150**
Recognizing inventive and thoughtful engagement with materials, whether through adaptive use of traditional fibers or innovative material approaches rooted in regional knowledge.
- **Award for Living Tradition – \$150**
Honoring a work that embodies inherited knowledge, sustained practice, or intergenerational transmission within Appalachian fiber culture.
- **Juror’s Awards for Craft, Continuity, and Innovation – \$150 each**
Selected for distinction in technical excellence, meaningful connection to lineage or place, and contributions that expand or sustain Appalachian fiber traditions.

AUTHORSHIP

Artists must be ages 18 and over. Works eligible for consideration must be the result of independent effort unless all collaborators are acknowledged at the time of submission. Artwork cannot be created for or as the result of an instructional setting in which another artist or teacher has provided guidance. The artwork must be an original design, not a copy or a variation of the original design of another artist working in any medium.

SUBMITTING WORK

SUBMISSION FEE

The submission fee for this exhibition is offered on a sliding scale of \$15 – \$65. A sliding scale allows applicants to choose the fee that best reflects their current financial situation. No explanation or documentation is required.

Please select the amount that feels appropriate for you:

- \$15 — This rate is intended for artists who are currently experiencing financial hardship or for whom paying a higher fee would be a barrier to applying.
- \$30–\$40 — This rate is appropriate if you can meet basic expenses but need to budget carefully.
- \$50–\$65 — This rate is for artists whose basic needs are comfortably met and who are able to contribute more to help offset administrative and exhibition costs.

All fees directly support the cost of jurying, exhibition production, and artist services. Choosing a higher rate helps make it possible for others to apply at a reduced fee. Thank you for helping us keep this exhibition accessible to a broad range of artists.

ENTRY IMAGES

You may upload up to three images per entry. The first image must clearly show the entire artwork, including all edges. The second and third images should be detail shots or different angles (for 3D work). All images must be in focus, well-lit, and taken against a clean, uncluttered background, representing the artwork exactly as you would wish it to appear in reproduction. Only images of completed artwork will be accepted—do not submit work-in-progress images. These images are the primary materials the jury uses to make their selections, so high-quality, accurate documentation is essential.

DIGITAL IMAGE FILE SPECIFICATIONS FILE TYPE

Be sure each file is a .jpg and carries the extension “.jpg.” The acceptable resolution is 72 dpi. Images should be sized no larger than 2000 pixels on the longest side. If you have issues submitting your images, please contact exhibitions@dairybarn.org.

If you are submitting a video or audio work, please edit the piece down to a 3-minute short that is less than 60 MB. These may be .MOV, .MPG, .MP4 for video and .MP3 or .WAV for audio. We also accept links to YouTube and Vimeo videos. Please indicate the full length of the piece in the description section of the application. This includes documentation for submissions for performance work. Online links for video submissions (such as links to the video on YouTube) may be provided in the entries and will be screened for names for the blind jury.

FILE NAMING

“Title.jpg” for the overall image; if providing a detailed photo, please use “Title_detail_1.jpg”, “Title_detail_2.jpg”, etc. Please do not include your name in the file.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Rather than submitting an artist statement, the entry form will ask a series of questions:

- Who made this work? What is the maker's connection to the Appalachian region?
- What kind of object or work is it?
- What materials were used, and describe their significance if applicable?
- Where was this work made?
- When was this work created? Does it draw from a specific historical tradition, family practice, or generational knowledge?
- Why was this work made? What ideas, needs, stories, or questions motivated it?
- How was the work made?

SALES & INSURANCE

Artists will be asked for both retail and insurance value for each piece of accepted work. The insurance value is 65% of its fair market value. In the event of loss or damage, it will be the artist's responsibility to provide documentation concerning the value of the work and the extent of the claim. The Dairy Barn Arts Center will insure the artwork while it is in our gallery for the duration of the exhibition, but the artist is responsible for their own insurance during shipping to and from The Dairy Barn Arts Center.

A work identified as For Sale (e.g. with an established retail price in U.S. Dollars) must maintain that status for as long as it is part of the active exhibition. Artists whose work is not for sale (NFS) must write NFS and must list a valid insurance value in U.S. Dollars. Insurance values for artworks that are not for sale are calculated by 65% of the fair market value.

In the event of a sale, the artist will be paid 65% of the retail price listed. The Dairy Barn will retain a 35% commission on work sold during the exhibition at The Dairy Barn or any sale that results from mediation by Dairy Barn Staff.

NOTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

All artists will be notified via email, following the jury process. The Dairy Barn Arts Center reserves the right to refuse work that is drastically different from what was photographically represented in the submission. A link to the Exhibition Agreement will be emailed, and must be completed and submitted by the date listed above. Selected works will be on display at The Dairy Barn Arts Center in the Sauber Gallery.

AGREEMENT

Submission of a work of art to this exhibition and the completion of the online entry process shall be understood to constitute an agreement on the part of the artist to all the conditions set forth. This will also grant The Dairy Barn Arts Center the rights to reproduce and distribute the images through print and electronic media for promotion of the exhibition and its entrants. Artists will retain all copyrights to their work.

DELIVERY AND RETURN OF WORK

Artists are responsible for the shipping of their work to and from The Dairy Barn Arts Center. Selected pieces **MUST** be shipped to arrive or be hand-delivered by dates listed above.

The Dairy Barn Arts Center
8000 Dairy Lane
Athens, Ohio, 45701

All artwork must be ready to hang or install. All 2D work must be framed with either D-rings, cleat, picture hanging wire or quilt sleeve. Multi-piece installations must have instructions and all hardware included.

The artwork will be returned in the same container in which it was shipped. Please make sure that your shipping container is sufficient. The Dairy Barn Arts Center is not responsible for artworks damaged from insufficient packaging or handling during delivery.

Please send a prepaid, self-addressed return shipping label with the artwork. Do not send cash or personal checks with an estimated amount for postage.

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