



## Region 17 eNews

### Open International IFA Region 17 Zoom call with special guest Jorie Johnson.

*Please note all images are copyrighted within Jorie's presentation.*

What a fabulous meeting we had yesterday! It was a great success. Thank you all for making this event possible by your enthusiasm and attendance-especially our friends in the USA and Canada

Here is our link to the Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/llo-0BvvBT8QMIJTW7\\_uWSKGZaowSsxv-3ljw\\_rM4nD9CPcCKvSoUAzP3swNgaLP.1rqNZJ3nleu70OwH](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/llo-0BvvBT8QMIJTW7_uWSKGZaowSsxv-3ljw_rM4nD9CPcCKvSoUAzP3swNgaLP.1rqNZJ3nleu70OwH)

[Passcode: %Mf251P2](#)

### Quick meeting summary-

The meeting focused on a collaborative international Zoom call organized by Wendy Bailye and her regional team, featuring presentations and discussions among regional coordinators and members of the International Feltmakers Association (IFA).

Jorie Johnson, a master felt maker, shared her research on historical felts and techniques, highlighting rare examples from the Silk Road and her own contemporary work. Jorie is originally from Boston, living in Kyoto, and much of her study has focused on Korean and Chinese textiles she has seen, and that are found in Japan.

**Please note all Jorie's images are copyrighted.** Regional coordinators from the U.S., Canada, and Australia, introduced themselves, shared their experiences with felt making, and showcased their work, including vessels, garments, and mixed-media pieces. Participants discussed techniques, materials, and the challenges of connecting across vast geographical regions. The meeting served as a platform for networking and fostering connections among felt makers globally, with plans for future regional convergences and further collaboration.

## Summary

### **International Felt Making Discussion**

Wendy hosted an international Zoom call with Jorie Johnson, a master felt maker from Kyoto, to discuss historical felts and research work. Jorie presented on various dyeing applications used in felt making, including indigo, sumi ink, and persimmon tannin. She shared examples of rare felt works from the Imperial Household Agency's collection, dating back to the Tang Dynasty. The meeting also included regional coordinators from around the world, and region 17 members, who will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their work later in the call.

### **Exploring Traditional and Contemporary Felt-Making**

Jorie presented a detailed overview of traditional and contemporary felt-making techniques, focusing on Korean and Japanese textiles, including examples from the Kyoto kimono merchants' summer festival and a Tibetan temple piece. She shared her experimental work with sumi ink on wool and demonstrated paste resist techniques learned from Chinese artisans in Yunnan, where she commissioned a felt piece from Master Hei Liuan. The presentation concluded with Jorie's recent exhibitions, including her "Rising Sun" series responding to Japan's historical context and her participation in the China National Silk Museum's conference on natural dyes.

### **Natural Fiber Artistry Presentation**

Jorie presented her work with natural fibers, including a new series of berets and interior textiles using Valais black-nosed sheep wool from Switzerland. She explained her process of combining materials like skeletal leaves and kuzu fiber, over-dyed using the Itajime clamp resist technique, which creates different effects under daylight and nightlight. The discussion included questions about her materials and techniques, with Jorie clarifying her use of fat-tail sheep wool from Turkey and her approach to painting on wool with liquid ink thinned with soy milk.

Image: Black Nosed Valais



Fat-tail breed is coarser and shorter used primarily for carpet yarn and felt.

[en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)





### **Felting Techniques and Regional Insights**

Jorie shared her extensive experience with felting, including her family's history in wool trade and her introduction to felting in Finland. We looked at techniques involving wheat paste treated fabric and dyeing in a wok.

Lisa Poulsen, from the Southwest US, introduced herself as the IFA Region Coordinator for the Southwest and showed a vessel made from a class with Zsófia Marx & Ellen Bakker Sherry Tamburo, from Florida, described her background in weaving and spinning, and her recent involvement in felting. Chantal, from Vancouver, BC, concluded the introductions, mentioning how she discovered felting by chance.

### **Global Felting Techniques Exchange**

The meeting brought together members from different regions to share their experiences and creations in felting. Chantal-FELT, from Canada, discussed her journey into felting and her current work on large-scale installations and tiny floral pieces. Debbie, from Pennsylvania, shared her interest in sculptural wet felting and needle felting, while Patti, from Florida, highlighted her passion for wearable art and combining sculptural felt with costume elements. Jackie, from New Zealand, showcased her vessel and jewelry-making skills, and Denise, from Sydney, displayed her 3D felting sculptures and use of natural wool. Leona, from the Gold Coast, presented her nuno felting work, and Heather, from New Zealand, demonstrated her experiments with combining flax and wool. The meeting aimed to foster connections between members across vast geographical areas and celebrate the diversity of felting practices globally.

### **Felters Convergence Planning Update**

The meeting featured introductions and presentations from several Australian and New Zealand felt artists, including Sabrina, Moira, Faye, Sue's, Visnja, and Kate, who shared their work, experiences, and artistic processes. Moira discussed her focus on three-dimensional felt sculptures and her plans to create larger pieces, while Sue's highlighted her use of resist techniques and bird-themed projects. Clare announced the upcoming Felters Convergence in Adelaide in 2027, noting the event's progress and the committee's efforts to finalize the venue and program. The convergence aims to cater to both experienced and novice felt artists, with plans to incorporate innovation and community connections. Additionally, Clare mentioned the incorporation of the Felters Convergence organization and the development of its website and social media presence.

### **Felting Group Introductions and Updates**

The meeting featured introductions and show-and-tell presentations from members Region 17 felting group, including Jill, Susie, and Jane. Jill shared her experience with wet felting and a custom jacket project, while Susie showcased her artwork "Gorge 6," which she plans to enter in the Cossack Art Awards. Jane discussed her recent felting projects, including mobiles and lamps, and mentioned her involvement with the Victorian Feltmakers.

Wendy expressed gratitude to Susie for her coordination work and introduced Jane St Quintin as a new co-coordinator. The group discussed the importance of passing felting skills to younger generations and agreed to continue meeting every three to four months.

Special thank you to everyone who came and for the IFA for supporting this new initiative. It takes a whole group of committed people to make these things happen and you are all appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Wendy Bailye and Jane St Quintin

IFA Regional Coordinators for Region 17, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Post meeting notes :

Visnja: Will send details of the 13/14<sup>th</sup> September workshop with Dawn Edwards.

Clare and Kate will announce Logo, venue, program committee and call for volunteers for the 2027 Felters Convergence in Adelaide Australia. It is a volunteer led felting event, held bi-annually in Australia and New Zealand.

Wendy and Jane will set date for next Zoom.