

MEET A WGM MEMBER IN 4, 3, 2, 1...

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Becky Franklin

I met Susan Hensel through the guild a few years ago, and it didn't take long to discover her fierce passion for the arts. She is known in WGM as an advocate for spinners, participating in the Tuesday Day-time Spinning Group (formerly Sunna Sisters) and recently joining the WGM's spinning faculty. Susan also owns a fantastic gallery/workspace space in South Minneapolis to show rotating exhibits of multi-media works from international to local artists and to create her own work. She says, "I am a professional artist who specializes in telling stories by creating whole room environments." Her book art piece "Portals" was displayed in the 2010 Minneapolis Institute of Art's Foot in the Door Exhibit.

When you visit The Susan Hensel Gallery on 34th & Cedar Ave, you'll notice the stocked bins of very fun spin-ready fiber for fiber enthusiasts to take home (see examples at <http://suesluxuryfiber.com>). She says that these days spinning, dyeing, and carding vie for her first fiber love, but "sewing is raising its head".

Susan joined the guild about four years ago, and she was so excited to see the facilities and the classes offered. She said, "I felt, like, 'Wow! These are my people!'" Since she joined, Susan was involved with putting together WGM's Strategic Plan in 2011, and she's on the Fundraising Committee, helping to plan this year's Silent Auction.

Four Tools/Fiber You Love To Use

1. I love all my spinning wheels (Babe, Ashford Traveler, Louet SD 45, Ashford Country Spinner, Majacraft Aura, Hansen e-spinner and all my Golding

- spindles!)
2. Alvin Ramer double row mini combs
3. Indigo Hound 4 pitch fine English combs
4. Electric Louet carder

Three Inspirations For Your Creations

1. Lexi Boeger AKA Plucky Fluff
2. Jacey Boggs
3. Judith MacKenzie

Two Mistakes You Have Made in the Past

1. Buying alpaca on e-Bay – it was like horse hair!
2. My first rigid heddle project from handspun: I made a fabric board

One Project You Are Particularly Proud of

1. I am particularly fond of some of the colorways I have been developing this winter, encouraging the tendency of some acid dyes to separate out into their component colors and combining them with more stable dyes to create subtle color transitions.