Exhibit Touring Schedule

South Dakota Art Museum, Brookings
September 12 through December 2, 2005

Dahl Arts Center, Rapid City
January 6 through February 26, 2006

Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen
March 13 through April 30, 2006

"The Fabric of Community"

is a project of the
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THE SOUTH DAKOTA Art MUSEUM

SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

South Dakotans for the Arts

The Fabric of Community:
Traditional Textiles of South Dakota

Annikki Marttila (rear) and her daughter Marianne Marttila Klöpfel at work on Finnish weaving projects in Annikki's farmhouse studio north of Frederick.

Celia Bradley of Hill City learned to quilt from her mother while growing up in the German community of Menno, SD.

The Fabric of Community:
Traditional Textiles of South Dakota

Fabrics in the form of clothing, bed coverings, rugs, table linens, and decorative items such as embroidery, crochet and wall hangings, have always been both a necessity and a source of creative expression for the many cultures that make South Dakota their home. As domestic arts, textiles are primarily the domain of women and over the years have been an important outlet for female imagination and artistry in traditional communities. Textiles weave families and communities together through the learning process and through the process of making, giving and sharing—think of quilting bees, linens and embroidery given as wedding or baby gifts, and the Native American honoring ceremony with its requisite star quilts.

Above right, the annual Mennonite Relief Auction in Sioux Falls is a showcase of quilting traditions from the surrounding area.

Below, Torleiv Kampen uses a spinning wheel made by his father in Norway.

Marie Good Shield with a baby quilt in the traditional Lakota star design. Star quilts are a vital part of all kinds of ceremonies on the Rosebud Reservation where Marie lives, from births, weddings and graduations to funerals and powwow give-aways.

While many of these textile arts are much less common now than in the past, there is still a place for the handmade and heartfelt even in our modern times. One has only to see the proliferation of quilt guilds, Hardanger classes and county fair entries to know that these traditions are alive and well all over South Dakota. Because of their personal and domestic associations, many textile arts are hard to find outside of homes, family celebrations and community gatherings. This exhibit shares the beauty of these comforting creations and the meanings they carry for their makers and users.

Participating Artists

Leona Barthle, crochet (Sioux Falls)
Celia Bradley, quilts (Hill City)
Dorothy Ellingson, Norwegian Hardanger embroidery (Rapid City)
Diane Fields, Scandinavian *nalbinding* rugs (Aberdeen)
Marie Good Shield, Lakota star quilts (Rosebud)
Mary Grandi, Czech costumes (Tabor)
Doris Kampen, Norwegian Hardanger & knitting (Canton)
Torleiv Kampen, Norwegian wool spinning (Canton)
Juanita & Sandra Kangas, woven rag rugs (Pierre)
Annikki Marttila, Finnish weaving and knitting (Frederick)
Marianne Marttila-Klipfel, Finnish weaving (Aberdeen)
Dolores Mattson, shirred wool rugs (Keystone)
Irene Schrag, quilts (Freeman)
Linda Vaa, Norwegian costumes (Brookings)