

# Since

moving to Connecticut in 1988, June Myles has been a rug hooker. First inspired by seeing hooked mittens at an antiques show in New England, she enrolled in a class at Wilton's Adult Education program. She's experimented with many ways to express herself – painting, woodturning, pot throwing, stained glass work – but what really “took” was hooking.

Originally from Elkins, West Virginia, she is a graduate of Hollins University in Virginia with a degree in physics, and spent her junior year abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris. She then worked in New York as a computer programmer and software designer.

While living in Connecticut, she has maintained her interest in science as well as art, serving for three decades as a docent at the American Museum of Natural History.



The works exhibited – rugs, wall hangings, and pillows– are alive with color, texture and movement.

The works show off June Myles' sophisticated use of color, her love of language and her virtuoso needle skills. Of her rug making, the artist says, “Hooking is pure

delight, a creative outlet for telling stories and expressing one's ideas, while enjoying color and textures. My influences are a commingling of Appalachia, France, New York, and Connecticut.

What is rug hooking? Rug hooking is both an art and a craft where rugs are made by pulling loops of yarn or fabric through a stiff woven base such as burlap, linen, or rug warp. The loops are pulled through the backing material by using a crochet-type hook mounted in a handle (usually wood) for leverage.

Characterized by rich tones, Myles' work engages the viewer with humor and a style that finds its origins in folk art. The works illustrate their tales with words and images of animals. A veritable menagerie can be found – from anteaters to turtles, from frogs to goats – which frolic and gambol across lively patterns and amidst words both whimsical and wise. And then there are the men! Myles' most interesting work, perhaps, can be found in a series of portraits of “men I've never met” as she calls them. As varied as a sun-drenched “Matisseman”, a fiddler, a cook, a banker, an exotic manservant, a philosopher (and many more), these portrayals confidently inhabit their space. Their personalities and garb are enhanced with Myles' deft use of collage techniques; the banker carries an actual watch, and the fiddler holds a genuine West Virginia bow!

June Myles' hooked rugs have been exhibited widely across Connecticut, and in Maine and West Virginia since 1990.

All works are on loan from the artist's collection.

**Wilton Historical Society**  
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# ONE LOOP AT A TIME



## June Myles' Hooked Art

March 19 – October 3, 2015



Wilton Historical Society

# Works in the Exhibition



**Cupcakes, 2004**  
Wool, metallic ribbon  
17 x 36 inches

**If Wool Could Talk, 2007**  
Wool  
9 1/2 x 50 1/2 inches



**Eyes, c.2009**  
Wool, corkboard  
Each approximately  
4 1/4 - 4 3/4 inches  
Frog  
Goat  
Mandrill  
Slow Loris  
Cougar

**The Fiddler, 2009**  
Wool, linen strings, grosgrain ribbon, wool fabric applique, West Virginia fiddle bow  
33 x 25 inches

**Espy Obscurie, 2012**  
Wool, dyed fleece  
19 x 17 3/4 inches

**The Pond Knows Nothing of the Frog's Passion, 2009**  
Wool, toy insects  
Approximately 35 x 39 inches

**Painting with Wool, 2014**  
Wool, hooked and shirred  
20 x 20 inches

**Welcome, 2005**  
Wool, grosgrain ribbon  
54 x 24 inches

**Frog, 2002**  
Wool, buttons  
26 x 15 inches

**Manservant, 2000**  
Wool, tassel  
11 x 10 inches

**Chez JBM, 2005**  
Wool  
43 x 31 inches

**He that Wears His Home is Everywhere at Home, 2007**  
Wool  
44 x 42 1/2 inches

**Matisseman, 2006**  
Wool  
17 x 17 inches

**The Goat, c. 2007**  
Wool, fleece  
13 x 12 inches

**A Full Belly & an Empty One Travel a Different Path, 2013**  
Wool, pocket watch, lunch pail latch  
48 x 28 inches

**What Kerfuffle? A.K.A. The Banker, 2008**  
Wool, watch face, buttons, leather tassels  
52 x 40 inches

**Laughter, 2014**  
Wool, hooked and shirred  
20 x 19 inches

**Curious? One Becomes Four, 2014**  
Wool, applique  
24 x 54 inches

**The Turner, c.2010**  
Wool, ribbon, button  
20 x 14 1/2 inches

**Ants Never Bend Their Course Far From the Granary, 1992**  
Wool, hooked and looped  
33 x 35 inches

**Lizardman, 2009**  
Wool  
20 x 18 inches

**The Sage, 2007**  
Wool  
17 x 17 inches