

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
224 Danbury Road, Wilton CT 06897
203-762-7257
www.wiltonhistorical.org

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 ½ x 50 ½ inches



Eyes, c.2009
Wool, corkboard
Each approximately
4 ¼ – 4 ¾ 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

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

Welcome, 2005
Wool, grosgrain ribbon
54 x 24 inches

Chez JBM, 2005
Wool
43 x 31 inches

He that Wears His Home is Everywhere at Home, 2007
Wool
44 x 42 ½ 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



Espy Obscurarie, 2012
Wool, dyed fleece
19 x 17 ¾ inches

Frog, 2002
Wool, buttons
26 x 15 inches

Matisseman, 2006
Wool
17 x 17 inches

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

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

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



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

Manservant, 2000
Wool, tassel
11 x 10 inches

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

The Turner, c.2010
Wool, ribbon, button
20 x 14 ½ inches

Lizardman, 2009
Wool
20 x 18 inches

The Sage, 2007
Wool
17 x 17 inches

