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 com- mingling 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.
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Espy Obscuarie, 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