

Women Fiber Artists Featured at the Saville Gallery

The work of ten women fiber artists, eight from Maryland, is on display in a special exhibit at The Saville Gallery in Cumberland, Maryland.

“**I Felt Like it 2**” is the second time this unique exhibition featuring the work of Joanne Bast, Dalis Davidson, Paige Garber, Roz Houseknecht, Kathy Korin, Grace Mahanes, Elise Miller, Jill Newman, Zita Simutis and Bev Thoms, has been displayed.



These artists are all members of the Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. The art includes a great variety of wearables as well as wall pieces, sculptures, vessels, jewelry and other decorative work all made of felt. Patrons can purchase and walk out with many of the wearables in the show.

Felting is one of the oldest methods of making fabric. It is thought to have been around for about 8000 years. The primary mechanism of felting is abrasion. Felting happens because every strand of wool fiber is covered by tiny scales. When animal fibers such as wool are shorn from sheep, alpaca, camel, lama, etc., they are prepared through washing and combing (carding) before they are used to create fabrics. Roving is carded, or combed fiber.



When the fibers in the roving are rubbed together the scales catch on each other, and mesh to make a fabric. Heat, water and alkalinity are used to help the scales open out and speed up the felting process.

Much of the work presented in the Saville Gallery show is nuno felted. This is a technique which bonds loose fiber, usually wool, into a sheer fabric such as silk gauze, creating a lightweight, elegant and very wearable felt.

The exhibit is free and open to the public, August 12- September 2, seven days per week, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Saville Gallery is sponsored by the [Allegany Arts Council](#) and is located at 9N Centre Street in Cumberland, MD. Phone: [\(301\) 777-2787](tel:3017772787)

Click here for [directions](#) to the gallery.

