

## Fiber Forum Retreat 2019

# INFLUENCES OF JAPANESE BORO IN CONTEMPORARY FABRIC ART

**Mary Ruth Smith**



March 10 – 16, 2019

La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa

600 La Torretta Blvd

Montgomery, Texas 77356

Boro, a Japanese word, means "tattered rags". It is frequently used to describe caringly patched and mended cotton/hemp bedding and clothing of rural families between 1850 and 1950. This constant repairing allowed the wearing ability for these items to be extended beyond their normal life cycle. Thus, boro fabrics tell us much about the living standards of families and the kind of economy of their time as it does about the visual impact these pieces possess.

This workshop will utilize the concepts of recycling, refurbishing, up cycling, up scaling, making do, mending and reclaiming, all contemporary trends that describe ways some of today's artists develop their work. Many of these artists have been influenced by Japanese boro; for others, it just seemed to have happened that their work possesses characteristics of boro without ever seeing it.

Power Point presentations will provide a historical overview of Japanese boro and highlight professional and student work from Baylor classes and from workshops taught by Mary Ruth. Artists who have been influenced with the concepts of boro will be introduced as well as artists whose work appears to have the characteristics of contemporary usages as noted above.

Students will be introduced to the ways patchwork, pieced construction, applique, reverse applique, mending, darning and hand stitch (using several types embroidery stitches) can be used to create rich and varied cloths composed of many parts and pieces of left over materials/scrap. Stitching, the means of making marks and holding parts in place, will be used to communicate ideas, provide complexity and strengthen conceptual viewpoints.

This is a process-oriented workshop whereby students will develop their work intuitively through the process of selecting, arranging, and putting all parts together in a cohesive and meaningful whole. Throughout the process, students will be guided as they make design decisions. Concepts of what makes a good design will be identified and discussed as students develop their work. Work sessions will be open to a wide range of topics depending on interests of participants. Critiques are ongoing, individually and and collectively, as the work sessions proceed.

Born and raised in Virginia, Dr. Mary Ruth Smith joined the Baylor Department of Art faculty in 1993, bringing with her the maturity of a long teaching career in two fields of higher education. She has traveled from home economics to art education to art and, at Baylor, has created a studio concentration in fabric surface design. Over the past forty years, her hand-stitched award-winning artwork has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States and in Canada and around the world. Selected international exhibitions include Small Format Textile Art Salon, Montevideo, Uruguay, 3rd & 4th International Triennial for Miniature Textiles, Szombathely, Hungary; 5<sup>th</sup> & 7th International Exhibitions of Mini-Textiles, Kherson, Ukraine; Quilt National 2005 & 2007, Miami, Ohio; Visions 2006, Oceanside, California; Man+Woman=Creation, San Jose, Costa Rica and Pojagis From American Friends, 5th Cheongju International Craft Exhibition, Korea. Her work has been illustrated in Fiberarts Design Books Six and Seven, Surface Design Journal, Embroidery Magazine, Touching Fiber Arts, 500 Art Quilts, The Art Quilt Collection: Designs and Inspiration From Around the World, American Style and Textile Forum. Recent published commentaries on her work include "The Stitched Statements of Mary Ruth Smith" by Todd Turek in the Surface Design Journal (2012) and "Mary Ruth Smith: Passages in Profiles" by Dr. Ann Brockette in Fiber Arts Now (2016).

Throughout her teaching career she has taught numerous workshops and presented lectures for a variety of professional and lay organizations. Selected workshops include two International Surface Design Association Biennial Conferences, 4th International Biennial of Textile Art and Design Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica, Federation of Fiber Artists of Texas, Oklahoma Art Guild, Fiber Dimensions, San Francisco. Lectures have been given at Seoul Women's University and Sookmyung University, Seoul, South Korea, Fibres West Conference, Bunbury, Australia, and National Art Education Association conferences, Boston, Massachusetts and Minneapolis, Minnesota and Fiber Dimensions, San Francisco.

### Costs

The retreat cost includes workshop and materials/ supplies fees, lodging from Sunday until Saturday checkout, Sunday evening welcome dinner, and three meals a day on workshop days and breakfast on Saturday March 16th. Any other meals, travel, sightseeing, gratuities, etc. are at your own expense:

Fiber Forum Members	\$1,400
Fiber Forum Friends	\$1,500
Single Supplement	\$505
Spouse/Guest room & meal Supplement	\$1040

The final balance less deposit is due January 15, 2019.

### Registration opens for

Fiber Forum Members	Immediately*
Fiber Forum Friends	Aug 1 2018*
Other EGA Members	Oct 1 2018
Registration will close	Nov 30, 2018

\* All Member registrations received by June 15 will be treated equally. If the workshop fills on or before that date, spaces will be allocated by lottery. The same is true of all Friends registrations received between Aug 1 and Oct 1. All other registrations will be processed in the order received.

To reserve your space, send a deposit of \$350 and the completed registration form to **EGA** Headquarters. You may fax the form along with credit card number or mail the form with a check.

**The Embroiders Guild of America**, 1205 E. Washington St., Suite 117, Louisville KY 40206; Phone: 502-589-6956 Fax Number 502-584-7900

Registrants will be notified as to whether their registration is confirmed or if they have been placed on a waiting list. Registrants will receive additional retreat details, a list of participants and a list of supplies to bring by the end of January 2019

### Hotel Information

La Torretta is located on Lake Conroe about an hour north of Houston. It is an all suite hotel with living room, bedroom and bath. There are a full service salon and spa and an 18 hole golf course. Amenities include free wi-fi, free parking, a fitness center and a swimming pool and hot tub. The conference center where the workshop will be has large rooms with natural light. This location is very popular with local needlework groups.

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Email or call Robin Roderick with any questions at [robinrest@aol.com](mailto:robinrest@aol.com) or 713.614.9427

**Fiber Forum Retreat 2019  
Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ EGA# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,400 Fiber Forum Member Double or  \$1,500 Fiber Forum Friend/Other Double

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

\$505 Single Room Supplement

\$1,040 Non-participating Spouse/Guest (includes room and meals)

**Note:** Registrants must be current EGA members in order to register for and to attend Fiber Forum Retreat.

**Method of Payment:**

Credit Card:  Visa,  Master Card,  Amex

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone or Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Cancellation Policy:** At the discretion of Fiber Forum, cancellation may be made in the case of insufficient enrollment, illness or death of teacher or immediate family, acts of nature, or other emergency. Student registration fee reimbursement or credit card will be issued. Travel cost is the sole responsibility of the student.

**Student Cancellation Policy:** Refunds will be made up to **Dec 31, 2018, less a handling fee of \$50.** After that date, refunds will be at the discretion of Fiber Forum.

**Release of Liability:** I release EGA and the teacher of this Fiber Forum workshop from liability for theft, property damage, or personal injury while I am participating in or attending any or all functions of the Fiber Forum Retreat. EGA and the Teacher are not responsible for actions and/or omissions made by any service supplier associated with this retreat.

I have read and understand the EGA cancellation policies and liability policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_