

Visual Artist: Darcy Falk

Website: www.darcyfalk.com

Darcy Falk is a well-known textile artist whose work is colorful, playful, delightful at a glance and gives you more the longer you examine the work. Darcy creates wall hangings made of hand dyed, collected fiber and vintage textiles. Some of Darcy's work is made more quickly with fun scraps of fabric from her collection and elaborate top stitching by hand and some is machine stitching a particular pattern. Falk herself is a collector of stories, memories, old instructional manuals, and fabric. With a particular commission Falk worked on she often begins with a general composition of the piece and then selects ever so carefully the right piece of fabric for the spot or a general color theme for the particular area and will begin to fill in pieces of fabric, like a puzzle. This looks like a great deal of fun to me, until realizing the piece is 10 feet long by 3 feet high, and that it takes incredible patience and great vision to create as Darcy does.

Someone told me once that you should always wake up to look at something beautiful. I thought of this as I selected my first Darcy piece to purchase. It's varying shades of the ever joyous bubble gum pink with top stitching of two vintage vacuum cleaners side by side, with a tiny strip of fabric in the bottom left corner reading, "Spotless, spotless, spotless".

Darcy loves good design, the way things work and how they are made, in particular the machines of a bygone area. The Hoover vacuum cleaner of the 1950's is a reoccurring image in her work, loving the shape and what it stands for, and the simple satisfaction of a clean floor. Another reoccurring image in her work is that of the old telephone, the large colorful plastic phones that she remembers seeing in her Aunt's home growing up. Falk uses image transfers to do overlay in her work, using photographs as well as old instruction manuals to do translucent layers on her pieces.

Falk loves the southwest. She loves experiencing the canyons, and rivers, the mountains and the desserts. She explores on foot, and by kayak or raft and this is probably the largest influence on her work. Desert bloom, canyons, with beautiful horizons and green water trickling or rushing down below are all images that Darcy continues to visit in her work.

Darcy Falk is an incredibly prolific artist. A great and amazing accomplishment is that she makes her living as a working artist. Falk worked on and completed several commissions in 2010, including a very large scale commission for the Diablo Trust. Darcy has been involved with Pickin in the Pines, a multi day music festival produced by Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music (FFOTM), and has done all of the marketing for Pickin in the Pines since 2008, which won the Viola Award in 2010 for Best Event. In 2010 she was a guest speaker at Northern

Arizona University (NAU) for the Marketing classes, on successful marketing techniques, and gave several workshops on dye and textile techniques as well as the creative process. Falk exhibited her work in several national shows as well as local shows at the Radisson Hotel in the Spring of 2010, and in the Prelude Exhibition at the Coconino Center for the Arts. Falk also participated in Flagstaff Open Studios Tours, opening her studio to the public. Falk has published in National Fiber and Textile magazines as well as a monthly column in FlagLive and has shown work at many galleries across the country in 2010. At the end of 2010 Falk started on new work to be exhibited in March of 2011 at West of the Moon Gallery. Darcy had her own gallery for several years downtown Flagstaff, where she worked and showcased the work of several local artists as well. Darcy Falk is not only an incredible artist, she gives so much back to the community, guiding and fostering the art and culture of Flagstaff, which is why she deserves the 2011 Viola Award for Outstanding Visual Artist.

Darcy Falk's impact locally is immense. Darcy teaches several workshops each year on her techniques and the creative process. She's a mentor to several young emerging artists and volunteers her time with many local organizations. Falk, Alan Peterson and Rachel Wilson founded a professional organization for artists in 1995 in Flagstaff, which we know as The Artist's Coalition. Falk started the quilt guild in 1987, and critique groups at NAU in the early and mid 1990's. Darcy has been on the Flagstaff Cultural Partners board since 2006 and is Chair and Treasurer of the Finance Committee that since 2009. Falk was trained as a journalist and actively publishes her work in national fiber arts magazines as well as a monthly column in FlagLive and has been an invited author on panels at the Northern Arizona Book Festival. Falk was on the Board for the Children's Museum for six years running and organizing the Northland Hospice Art in the Park events, and acting Executive Director for the last few years. Darcy has been very involved in the Diablo Trust, Reflections on the Land exhibit, creating a catalog for the show in 2010.

Darcy Falk has taught several workshops on her techniques and the creative process all over the country. Falk has given several slideshows and gallery talks about her work, in local galleries as well as national. Falk's work hangs in private and public collections and in spas and hotels across the nation including the Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas and the Westin Resort in Scottsdale, and Merg and Anderson in Madison, Wisconsin. In 2006 Falk was co-curator of Needle Culture, an exhibition of Nationally Juried contemporary mixed media textiles at the Coconino Center for the Arts. This exciting show put Flagstaff on the map for contemporary textiles, and this was the brainchild of Darcy Falk. Falk is a prolific writer and has had a great deal of her writing as well as her artwork published in national exhibition catalogs as well as National textile magazines and books.





