



Surface Design
Association

BEYOND ^{the} SURFACE

SURFACE DESIGN ASSOCIATION: NEWS RELEASE

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Website(s): <https://www.surfacedesign.org/events-exhibits/conferences/conference2019/>

Information about Innovations in Textiles 2019: <https://www.innovationsintextilesstl.org/>

Surface Design Association to hold Biennial Conference, October 3-6 in St. Louis, Partnering with St Louis' Innovations in Textiles 2019

The Surface Design Association (SDA) will hold its biennial conference, *Beyond the Surface*, October 3-6, in St Louis, Missouri. SDA is partnering with *Innovations in Textiles 2019*, a collaborative regional event of over 30 St. Louis area arts venues showcasing exhibitions that explore fiber art, textiles and fashion created by local, regional, national, and international artists. Major conference activities include a Day of Speakers at the Missouri History Museum and a day-long bus tour sampling *Innovations in Textiles 2019* exhibitions. Registration for the SDA conference is open to the public; details may be found on the [SDA website](#). Information about *Innovations in Textiles 2019* event is located [here](#).



Image shown: Top row: Carissa Carman, Yvonne Osei, Amy Meissner. Bottom row: Kate Anderson, Hannah O'Hare Bennett, Basil Kincaid



SDA's October 4 **Day of Speakers**, at the Missouri History Museum, includes presentations by contemporary thinkers and artists in the field. With speakers **Carissa Carman and Yvonne Osei**, **morning sessions** focus on how creative work moves beyond the studio. Carman discusses SITE Lab (Surreal Innovations in

Textile Environments), exploring alternatives to the standard museum and gallery trajectory by stepping outside the artists' studio to develop innovative works in collaboration with other artists and non-artist affiliations. Carman is a Lecturer in Fibers

at the School of Art Architecture and Design (SOAAD), Indiana University Bloomington. German-born Ghanaian artist, Yvonne Osei, describes herself as an outsider artist making insider art. Through her recent work *Who Discovers the Discoverer?* and other artworks, Osei will unpack the importance of relying on public spaces to cultivate content and context for art.

Afternoon sessions feature side-by-side artist presentations. In ***Locally Grown, Nationally Known***, **Kate Anderson** shares her meticulously knotted sculptural teapots riffing on pop art and contemporary icons. **Basil Kincaid**, shares his sculptural work anchored by quilting and social engagement. In ***Making Art, Making a Life***, **Hannah O'Hare Bennett** shares her unfolding career as an emerging fiber and paper artist. Common themes in her work include landscape, earth, deep time, narrative poetry and materiality. Alaska artist **Amy Meissner**'s shares her award winning work, including her traveling solo exhibition, *Inheritance: makers. memory. myth.*, created from a 13-month crowdsourcing effort called *The Inheritance Project*, with domestic linens and narratives from over 65 contributors, representing 20 countries and over 20 US states. With shared box lunch and hospitality, the day includes opportunities for dialog and networking with an audience engaged in a diverse range of media and approaches to textile art.

Activities highlighting contemporary student and emerging artist work include a PechaKucha-type presentation during Opening Night, as well as *Figuring It Out: Truths of Being Successful*, a panel discussion held on Saturday near *Future Tense 2019*, the annual SDA Student exhibition at the Edwardsville Art Center. Students from Indiana University and the Kansas City Art Institute will also contribute to display window installations of artwork and mail art at the St Louis Artists' Guild.

The St Louis Artists' Guild serves as SDA's central location for the conference. In operation since 1886, SLAG is the oldest arts organization west of the Mississippi River. Its 5000 square foot contemporary art space in the mid-century modern Famous Barr Building will be the site of the conference's opening and closing events as well as ***Beyond The Surface***, SDA's Annual Juried Member Exhibition, juried by Jo Stealey and Jim Arendt. Collective Mending Sessions with Catherine Reinhart and sponsored demonstrations on October 3 will also take place.

In addition to the SDA's ***Beyond the Surface*** Exhibition, SDA hosts two other exhibitions. ***Small Works***, will be featured at Webster University's Arcade Contemporary Art Projects Gallery, October 3 – Dec 15. ***Future Tense 2019***, SDA's Annual Student Exhibition, is featured at the Edwardsville Art Center, Edwardsville, IL, September 6-October 11, with jurors Tamryn McDermott and Kim Eichler-Messmer.

Ten pre-conference workshops in a variety of fiber media and professional skill development are being held on October 2 and 3. Teachers include Amy Meissner, Ann B. Coddington, Megan Singleton, Merrill Comeau, Jodi Colella, Kate Anderson, Marianne Barr, Jennifer Reis, Laura Foster Nicholson. Details may be found on the [SDA conference page](#). Workshops open to non-conference attendees on June 1.

Beyond the Surface, Surface Design Association's Biennial Conference is made possible through generous partnerships with Innovations in Textiles 2019, the St Louis Artists' Guild, Webster University, and the Edwardsville Art Center as well as other sponsors.

Surface Design Association, a 501c3 non-profit textile arts organization founded in 1977, is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of textile-inspired art and design through member-supported benefits including publications, exhibitions and conferences. Visit us at www surfacedesign.org. For questions, please contact info@surfacedesign.org.

