

JAANA MATTSON



ABOUT THE WORK:

Using delicate layers of dyed roving, my needle felted wool textiles are built and anchored one wisp at a time with a notched needle until the image becomes fabric. With these materials one can manipulate light and color in much the same way as an impressionist painter, with the resulting layers of fiber blended by the viewer's eye. The organic textures of wool and wood energize each other as the fiber composition is recessed into locally milled timber or found objects. By placing each completed textile in wood, the resulting sculpture takes on a resonance greater than the sum of its parts.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Since 2014 Jaana has been developing new techniques in needle felting to best capture the vibrancy and nuance of landscape. In 2020 her award-winning work and tutorials were published in the book "Jaana Mattson's Landscapes in Wool: The Art of Needle Felting".

A contented introvert by nature, Jaana's joy in solitude is made possible by occasional, invigorating forays into humanity via workshops and art fairs. Sharing passion for art, landscape and creative process is the rich inversion that allows her to enjoy living in her head the rest of the time. Thriving on the fringes, Jaana pops back and forth to revel briefly in community before she withdraws once again to dwell on the significance of "things".

Jaana has studied art and craft since she had any choice in the matter (and is grateful to have been able to follow her own lead on this). She has a B.S. in studio art from Skidmore College, and M.F.A. from UW-Seattle, with many hypothetical certificates from intense Independent Study. After being born, raised, and often stuck in Minneapolis, MN, Jaana eventually heard the siren's song of the Blue Ridge Mountains and moved to North Carolina with no regrets. She lives there now with her dogs in her home studio among the treetops.