

FIBER ARTS DISPLAY



**Join us for another summer of whimsical art at the Germantown Library!
June-August 2025, fiber art (aka yarn bomb) pieces are on display
outdoors and inside the library. The theme for 2025 is storybooks.
See if you can identify some of your favs!**



Our thanks to CREATE Council on the Arts for their continued support through the Statewide Community Regrant (SCR) program

Albums of current and past Fiber Art displays can be seen here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/769723947083060/media/albums>

History of the Projects

The annual Fiber Art displays at the Germantown Library began in the summer of 2020, when pandemic directives forced closure of the library. In an effort to provide safe entertainment for the community during the closure, a team of volunteers decided to yarn bomb the library grounds. The response was resoundingly positive and, as pandemic closures stretched on, a second yarn bomb display was installed in the fall of 2020. Once the library was able to reopen, positive feedback about the display from patrons prompted it to become an annual event.

Each year the displays have grown in scope, and planning has evolved to incorporate themes. The scope grew to include both indoor and outdoor elements for the fourth display in 2022, and have continued ever since. The outdoor displays consist of crochet or knit pieces hand-made of weather tolerant fibers that remain on display rain or shine, while the indoor displays include finer fibers, like wool, and feature additional fiber art techniques including crochet, knit, felting, and weaving.

Past themes have included a fifty-six foot long crochet coral reef, which brought awareness to coral bleaching caused by climate change (2021), outer space (2023), and winter/fantasy (2024). Every attempt is made to reuse or repurpose pieces from prior displays. Some have proven to be so popular that they are on permanent display at the library, including a six-foot felted sea serpent, a two-foot space ship, and a four-foot gargoyle. Some pieces have been donated for other fiber art installations, including crochet corals from the 2021 crochet coral reef, which became part of the Radical Fibers installation at the Tang Teaching Museum in Saratoga Springs (Jan-June 2022)

Meet the Artists



- *Kathy Overington*

A software engineer by trade (now retired), Kathy is a lifelong maker/crafter who visualized, organized, and was a major contributor of artistic pieces for each fiber arts/yarn-bomb exhibition at the Germantown Library. Kathy has also participated in several large-scale public fiber/crochet murals for the Love Across the USA organization.

Making fiber arts as a group and working with others to create public art is a process Kathy enjoys a great deal, and it's something she looks forward to continuing locally, and beyond. She and her family have made the Columbia County Town of Germantown their home for over thirty years.

- *Emi Olsson*

An IT Engineer by day, Emi Olsson funnels her creativity into crochet and paper crafts. She has been a contributing artist to the annual Germantown Library Yarn Bomb/Fiber Arts display every year since it's inception in 2020, specializing in crochet mandalas. Emi travels extensively for work and collaborates with her daughter (in Japan) and twin sister (in Europe) on mandala designs and color schemes.

Emi also enjoys using her crochet skills for charity, crocheting hats and blankets year-round for the Warm Up America Foundation.

- *Nicky Sacco-Brown*

An Optometrist by trade (now retired), Nicky Sacco-Brown has been a part of the Germantown Library Fiber Arts team since 2023. She enjoys creating with many fiber arts, including knit, crochet, weaving, and felting.

In addition to designing and constructing pieces for the annual library displays, Nicky is also skilled at designing armatures to support fiber art pieces and making necessary calculations to help ensure knit & crochet designs fit the odd-shaped structures they will be attached to.

When not working on fiber arts, Nicky is an avid golfer, skier, and enjoys traveling with her husband, family, and friends.

- *Mary Howard*

A newbie to the Germantown Library Fiber Arts team, Mary looks at fiber arts with the right side of her brain and enjoys teaching left-handed techniques in knitting, crocheting, spinning and more to southpaws. Breaking free from the confines of the rules and patterns of the workaday world, her pleasure is found in combining colors and textures in both displayable art and wearable art.

Retiring from over 25 years in the planning & public transit industry this fall, Mary is looking forward to adding to her life's list of experiences. New adventures await, each another row in the tapestry of life.

- *Abigail McFarland*

Abigail is a 2024 graduate of Germantown Central School and the youngest member of the Library Fiber Arts team. She only recently learned how to crochet but was immediately inspired to make something for the 2025 display. After brainstorming with her grandmother (Kathy Overington, another member of the team), they worked together to make the "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" piece. Abigail made the giant chocolate chip cookie and grandma made the mouse. Teamwork!