

Portfolio / Aoi Yoshizawa

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B / L O O M ! - Solo Exhibition

Loom installations made of wood material, wood glue, repurposed cotton yarns and ribbons, and tapes

Gallery Lennätin, Harakka island / 2023

The solo exhibition "B/LOOM!" showcased an ongoing experimental process where I tested my self-made wooden heddle systems on the backstrap looms. The wooden heddles are made according to the thickness and density of the warp yarns. Each heddle is made specifically for the designs of the textiles to be woven on the looms.





B/LOOM! exhibition (close-up view of the wooden heddles), Gallery Lennätin 2023

Diagonal Weighted Loom

Repurposed wood materials, cotton yarns, cotton fabric,
repurposed ribbons, plastic bags, stones
w 240 cm h 250 cm d 250 cm / 2022

The Diagonal Weighted Loom is a combination of an ancient backstrap loom and a warp weighted loom. The loom balances its weight between the existing wall structures in the HIAP studio using stones placed in plastic bags. The weaving systems are divided into two parts on the loom, allowing me to control the whole loom myself.



Installation view at the HIAP studio, Suomenlinna, 2022



Details of the loom installation at HIAP Open Studios Autumn Season, Suomenlinna, 2022

Warp-Weighted Loom

Repurposed wood materials, nylon ribbons and yarns, cotton yarns, paper ribbons, plastic bags, stones, nails, tape
w 300 cm h 250 cm / 2022



I created a site-specific warp-weighted loom inspired by the Icelandic Viking loom. As a contemporary version, I built simple structures using leftover wood materials from the wood workshop and used stones in the plastic bags as weights.



Warp-Weighted Loom (weaving in progress) , HIAP Suomenlinna, 2022

Wooden Heddle Experiments

Repurposed wood materials, wood glue, repurposed cotton yarns and paper ribbons, Japanese hot spring bath towel, cotton ropes
w 110 cm h 200 cm / 2023

Based on the traditional wooden rigid heddles (through which the warp threads pass) for backstrap looms, I have been developing my own wooden heddle systems and playing with the possibilities of these weaving tools. My woodworking process is quite slow (as I am still learning), which actually supports the time consuming process of hand weaving practice.



Hello, I am AOI ! - Exhibition

During the artist residency at the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, I presented my own self made looms from the long-term project I AM A WEAVER - an artistic research and technical experiment in hand weaving. Alongside my loom installations, I exhibited my design work from collaborations with companies such as Lapuan Kankurit. The event was held as part of New York Textile Month.

Finnish Cultural Institute, New York / 2023





Exhibition view at the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, 2023

Loom Inbetween

Wooden poles, repurposed cotton yarns, ropes and tape
width 120 cm length 420 cm / 2023

I created this installation to represent the process of my loom making. This installation looks like a loom, but it is not yet a loom to be woven on. It already looks like a tool without being finished - I found it interesting to create something inbetween, tool or not. The installation was presented at the exhibition "Taitelijoiden Saari" in Harakka island.



THIS IS HOW I WEAVE exhibition

Warping repurposed yarns, sawing and sanding repurposed wood materials, tying the yarns on the bars, knotting heddles, weaving with repurposed yarns and ribbons

2022 / Gallery Södervik, Helsinki

The solo exhibition THIS IS HOW I WEAVE showcases my latest selfmade backstrap looms in order to present my technical understanding of and my dreamlike thought about hand-weaving techniques.



Loom 1 on the left - w 120 cm h 200 cm / 2022

Loom 2 on the right - w 65 cm h 230 cm / 2022



Loom 3 - w 200 cm h 190 cm / 2022

THIS IS HOW I WEAVE - Workshop

Backstrap looms made by warping repurposed yarns, sawing and sanding repurposed wood materials, knotting heddles, and weaving

Gallery Lennätin, Harakka island / 2022



"THIS IS HOW I WEAVE" weaving workshops were held to share my understanding over the hand-weaving techniques and my own creative thinking. Eleven participants tested the backstrap looms which I have created with found materials. Four different looms were made for participants to experiment with different bindings (woven structures) in order to get to know the fundamental process of textile making. Backstrap looms were used in this workshop due to their great mobility and possibility to construct with limited resources.

