

Women and Water: Woven Portraits from Around the World – Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to do one of these weavings?

The design process actually takes much longer than the weaving! Each one of these pieces took 3 weeks to a month from start to finish. In each final piece Mary threw the shuttle at least 1800 times! Plus, many more times when sampling and preparing the design.

How did the women get chosen for the portraits?

Mary did extensive research, contacting women and organizations worldwide.

What materials are used in the weavings?

Warp and weft are cotton threads.

How long has Mary been weaving?

Mary began weaving in the 1970's. She started to learn Jacquard weaving in 2003 by taking classes from experts including Montreal, Canada, from a master Jacquard weaver.

How does she do the weaving? Please watch the video!!

What is "Jacquard" weaving?

Frenchman Joseph Marie Jacquard invented a loom in 1804 that was controlled by a number of punched cards laced together into a continuous sequence. Multiple rows of holes were punched on each card, with one complete card corresponding to one row of the design. This use of replaceable punched cards to control a sequence of operations is considered an important step in the history of computing hardware.

This is an exceptionally complex form of weaving requiring a **very specialized loom** and computer software. Thus, only 30 -40 individuals in North America currently have their own jacquard looms.

Are any of the pieces for sale?

None of these pieces in the exhibit are for sale. Mary wants the exhibit to travel and inspire people to take action to protect our waters.

Where is the exhibit going next?

The exhibit goes to the United Nations, New York, March 2027. Ironwood, MI, Summer 2027, Waupaca, WI fall 2027. Other venues are being researched and scheduled. Do you have suggestions?

Contact Mary Burns?

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