

Melanie Wilder

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Melanie Wilder

Wild Earth Textiles

Melanie is a weaver, spinner, natural dyer and educator. She has spent the past 25 years dedicated to learning and teaching, living in the Asheville, NC area where she currently runs the fiber program at Warren Wilson College. She is interested in exploring how process crosses into our daily lives and how intentional choices can help shape our footprint on the future. This involves the yearly rhythm of growing fibers and dyes and how the textiles made from these plants create ritual and meaning.

Melanie lives in Swannanoa, NC.

Teaching Experience

Craft Studio Manager, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2021-2024)

Fiber Arts Supervisor, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2009-current)

Fiber Arts Instructor, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2019-current)

John C Campbell Folk School (2021), (2023), (2024) (2025)

Natural dye art camp for children, Asheville Art Museum (2025)

Various workshops at Local Cloth, Piedmont Fibershed, NC Arboretum related to Natural Dyes, Asheville, NC (2017-2021)

Various workshops at Catalyst Fiber Workshop, Fairview, NC (2025-present)

Weaving and Fibers Instructor, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, Brevard, NC (Summers 2013-2015)

Education

Mountain Bizworks Foundations Business Course, Asheville, NC (2013)

AAS Professional Crafts Fiber, Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC (2005)

Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa NC (1998-2000)

Residencies

Pentaculum, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN (2016)

Group Exhibitions

Faculty Art Show - Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2025)

After Helene: Reflections on Community Healing and Strength, organized by Swannanoa Artists' Collective - Swannanoa, NC (2025)

Deer Freaks and Decoys, part of The Farm at Black Mountain College - Black Mountain College Museum, Asheville, NC (2024)

Twelve-by-Twelve Textile Show - Local Cloth, Asheville, NC (2024)

Krafthouse - Center for Craft, Asheville, NC (2023)

Faculty Art Show - Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2023)

Pulling the Thread: A Brief Survey of Appalachian Textiles - The Biven & Jones Art Gallery, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Rabun Gap, GA (2021)

Faculty Art Show - Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2021)

Botanical Journeys: Dyeing and Printing with Plants - Local Cloth Exhibit, Refinery Arts Building, Asheville, NC (2020)

Faculty Art Show - Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2019)

Women in Fiber Art 1919-2019 – First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC (2019)

Take a Seat – Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, NC (2018)

Mama Made – Holden Gallery, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2017)

Fold Unfold – Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA and Wellington B. Gray Gallery, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC (2017)

Centennial Celebration of Biltmore Industries – Grovewood Gallery, Asheville, NC (2017)

Connections – Asheville Area Arts Council, Asheville, NC (2015)

Excite – An Exhibition of Contemporary Textiles and Fiber Arts, The Mary Cornwell Gallery, Haywood Community College, Clyde, NC (2014)

Project Handmade Fashion Show, Diana Wortham Theatre, Asheville, NC (2014)

Wearable Art Fashion Show, Folk Art Center, Asheville, NC (2005)

Graduate Show Exhibit, Blue Spiral 1, Asheville, NC (2005)

Student Show - Center for Craft Creativity and Design at Kellogg Center, Hendersonville, NC (2003)

Related Work Experience

Co-founder Catalyst Fiber Workshop (2025-current)

Owner Wild Earth Textiles, natural dyes & handwoven textiles (2012-current)

Clothing buyer and merchandiser for small retail stores (1999-2002)

Seamstress for niche sewing business (2001-2002)

Lectures/ Workshops / Publications

Workshop: The Art of Flowers, Asheville Art Museum, July 2025

Lecture/ presentation: *From Field to Shroud: A Project of Becoming a Cultural Changing Seed*, co-presenter with Katherine Savage, 9th Annual Death Faire, November 2024, Pittsboro, NC.

Wilder, Melanie. "Weaving Community Together," This Is Not a Retreat, edited by Ben Lignel and Namita Wiggers. The MACR Papers, Swannanoa, NC: MA in Critical Craft Studies, 2023.

Workshop: Garden to Cloth, John C Campbell Folk School, August 2024

Workshop: Garden to Cloth, John C Campbell Folk School, July 2023

Workshop: Plant Pigments for Art making, John C Campbell Folk School, July 2023

Assistant, Ikat Weaving, John C Campbell Folk School, January 2023

Workshop: Garden to Cloth, John C Campbell Folk School, August 2021

Workshop series for Piedmont Fibershed - Growing Your Dye Garden, Flax to Linen process (2020-2021)

Panel moderator - Indigo and the Craftscape with Roland Ricketts and Sarah Bellos (2020)

Various natural dye workshops, Local Cloth, NC Arboretum, Warren Wilson College (2017-2019)

Lecture/ presentation, Warren Wilson College: Textile Fibershed Project", Textile Study Group, Asheville, NC (2016)

Panel Discussion "Farmer – Artisan Partnership: The Local Fibershed Movement", Surface Design Association Conference, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (2015)

Lecture/ presentation, "Fiber Arts at Warren Wilson College: Reviving a Tradition, Weaving a Future", Textile Study Group, Asheville, NC (2014)

"Workshop: Exploring Natural Dyes", Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2014)

"Workshop: Fiber Exploration for Children", Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC (2014)