



Rebecca Smith

Rebecca Smith Tapestry
San Diego, California
858-352-8951

www.rebeccasmithtapestry.com
weaving@rebeccasmithtapestry.com
facebook.com/rebeccasmithtapestry
[instagram@rebeccasmithtapestry](https://instagram/rebeccasmithtapestry)

I keep a quote pinned up in my studio: "To make art, develop an infallible technique, then place yourself at the mercy of inspiration". I don't remember the source, and have not been able to find it again other than on the slip of paper on which I scribbled it years ago. However, it serves as both a guide and a confirmation for how I have developed as an artist.

I studied tapestry weaving with one of the great modern masters, Archie Brennan, in whose workshops I learned the fundamentals of good tapestry weaving. When inspiration came, it led me away from traditional tapestry weaving, but only by knowing the rules was I able to break them. Although tapestries are a form of cloth, my desire was to expand them into a 3-dimensional form. I developed my signature style of blending yarn, beads, and wire into a single composition. Each element brings its own strength to my work: yarn gives texture and color, transparent seed beads allow light to flow through the piece, and wire provides structure. My exploration of these elements has led me to create sculptural tapestries, as well as small baskets and even jewelry.

I have always sought ways to let light filter through or emanate from my woven art. Most recently I have applied my tapestry skills to creating imagery in "transparent tapestry" or transparency weaving. In this format I am able to layer images to create depth. The lightest or least dense layer is transparent, creating an ethereal effect that perfectly fulfills my intention to use light as an element in my weaving. These weavings are almost weightless, which suits my need to not add any more weight to an already overburdened world.

