

# CALDBECK GALLERY

**Morris David Dorenfeld**

**Tapestry Artist**

[Morris David Dorenfeld | Caldbeck Gallery](#)

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Spruce Head, Maine 04859

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## **ARTIST STATEMENT:**

Being a painter by training, I use the loom to weave wool tapestries – paintings in fiber. The weavings rely on compositions of harmony, proportion, balance, and above all the visual music of color. Brilliant primary color itself is the subject of the artwork – color is king.

As early as I can remember, I was drawn to art and especially color. This led me to study at the Art Institute of Chicago, from which I graduated with a major in painting, never suspecting that weaving would eventually become my medium of choice.

I came to weaving through the serendipity of discovering a beautiful old barn loom in New Hampshire, just before moving to Maine in 1978. It opened the door to this iconic medium which has held me in its thrall for over four decades. My work is now done on a treasured vertical Finnish Varpapuu tapestry loom, around which my life and home in Maine revolve.

The process from design to completion brings me great joy. I begin each tapestry in a series with a focused design process and continue working with multiple colors until I feel I have exhausted the color design possibilities. Each new tapestry in a series is influenced by and builds upon the previous one. The audacious, brilliant Hunter Orange became my muse for a recent series that resulted in 19 pieces.

I beat the weft down by hand with a hardwood fork and with my fingers, using small butterfly hanks of yarn. Time consuming, this procedure requires concentration and patience; but, when taken from the loom, the piece is tight as a drum and the total, each single pick, is fully known.

Many of my early weavings referenced the landscapes and seascapes I found in Maine. The tapestries evolved gradually from horizontal to include the vertical, and more recently the tapestries have become more introspective. I have been simplifying my compositions, and my color palette has become increasingly bright and bold as my sight has become compromised.

It is said, “Your eyes are the window to your soul.” I believe these works of art are the window to my soul. The creation of art is an act of faith. It proclaims – We are here. We were here. We mattered, we matter!

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## EDUCATION

- Oxbow Summer School of Art, Saugatuck, Michigan, 1959
- Art Institute of Chicago, BFA, 1960
- Art Students League, New York 1962

## GALLERY REPRESENTATION 2022 – 1984

- Caldbeck Gallery, Rockland, ME (2009 – present)
- Stable (Victorian Stable) Gallery, Damariscotta, ME (1998 - 2005)
- Good Prospect Gallery, Stonington, ME (1998)
- Kathy Woell Gallery, Bath, ME (1998)
- Icon (formerly Duane Paluska ) Gallery, Brunswick, ME (1987-1996, 2001)
- The Handwork's Gallery, Blue Hill, ME (1986-1987)
- Maple Hill Gallery, Portland, ME (1984)

### Arizona and New Mexico

- Patina Gallery, Santa Fe, NM (1999 – 2000)
- Robins/Hyder Gallery, Santa Fe, NM (1996)
- Galeria Mesa, Mesa, AZ (1988-1993)

## EXHIBITION HISTORY

### 2022

- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME
- Granite Gallery, Tenants Harbor, ME, One Person Show *scheduled 8/25-9/7/2022*

### 2021

- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

### 2020

- The Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ, One Person Show, "Color Is King," February – August
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

### 2019

- The Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ, 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts, February – April
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

### 2018

- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME
- Portland Public Library, Portland, ME
- Craft Gallery, "Craft as Fine Art" Show and "Black and White" Show (Through the courtesy of the Caldbeck Gallery), Rockland, ME

### 2017

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- Craft Gallery, "The Loom as Canvas" One Person Show (Through the courtesy of the Caldbeck Gallery), Rockland, ME
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME
- Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA
- Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA), Maine Biennial

## 2016

- Society of Arts and Crafts, "Our Cups Runneth Over: Morris David Dorenfeld Featured Artist," Boston, MA
- Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA), Maine Biennial
- Craft Gallery, Group Show, Rockland, ME
- Caldbeck Gallery, Group Show, Rockland, ME
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

## 2015

- Caldbeck Gallery, One Person Show, Rockland, ME
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

## 2014

- Craft Gallery, Rockland, ME
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME

## 2013

- ICON Gallery, One Man Show, Brunswick, ME
- Jackson Memorial Library, Tenants Harbor, ME
- Craft Gallery, Rockland, ME
- Caldbeck Gallery, Rockland, ME

## 2012

- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

## 2011

- The Inspired Hand V, USM-Lewiston-Auburn Campus, Auburn, ME
- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

## 2009

- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

## 2008

- "Cabins in the Sky," Caldbeck Gallery, Rockland, ME
- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

## 2007

- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME
- Benton Nyce Gallery Fine Art & Furniture, Greenport, NY

## 2006

- The Inspired Hand III, USM-Lewiston-Auburn Campus, Auburn, ME
- "Art: On and Off the Wall," Maine Artists in the American Art Collector Juried Competition of New Work, 2005/2006, River Tree Center for the Arts, Kennebunk, ME

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# CALDBECK GALLERY

- Work of the Hand, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

## 2004

- Center for Maine Contemporary Art, "Contemporary Maine Fiber Art," Rockport, ME
- Green Design Furniture, One person show, Portland, ME
- Rock City Coffee Roasters, Rockland, ME
- The Inspired Hand II, USM-Lewiston-Auburn Campus, Auburn ME

## 2003

- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME
- Rock City Coffee Roasters, Rockland, ME

## 2002

- Maine Coast Artists, "Past-Present-Future," Rockport, ME (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition)
- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME

## 2001

- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME
- Art in Embassies Program, "Maine Light," The Ambassador's Residence, American Embassy, Santiago, Chile

## 2000

- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME
- Shidoni Arts, Tesuque, NM
- Patina Gallery Two Person Show, Santa Fe, NM
- Art in Embassies Program, "Maine Light," The Ambassador's Residence, American Embassy, Santiago, Chile

## 1999

- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME
- Portland Museum of Art, "Fabric and Fiber"
- Art in Embassies Program, "Maine Light," The Ambassador's Residence, United States Embassy, Santiago, Chile

## 1998

- Maine Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship Exhibition, "Arts in the Capital," Augusta, ME
- Round Top Center for the Arts, "10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey," Damariscotta, ME
- Art in Embassies Program, American Embassy, Santiago, Chile,

## 1997

- Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME
- Portland Craft Show, Portland, ME

## 1996

- Kleinert/James Arts Center, One Person Show, Woodstock, NY
- Second Read Books & Coffee, Rockland, ME
- Maine Coast Artists, "Work of the Hand," Rockport, ME

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# CALDBECK GALLERY

## 1995

- Galeria Mesa, "Vakhi" Exhibition, Mesa, AZ
- Governor's Mansion, Blaine House, Augusta, ME
- Maine Coast Artists 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Crafts Fair, Rockport, ME
- Portland Craft Show, Portland, ME
- Signature Gallery, Chestnut Hill, MA

## 1994

- Benson's Fiber & Wood, Etc., Camden, ME
- Portland Craft Show, Portland, ME
- Cry of the Loon Art Gallery, "Winners," South Casco, ME
- River Tree Center for the Arts, Damariscotta, ME

## 1993

- Benson's Fiber & Wood, Etc., Opening Exhibition, Camden, ME
- Round Top Center for the Arts, "Four By Design," Damariscotta, ME
- Portland Museum of Art, "Makers '93," Portland, ME
- Portland Craft Show, Portland, ME

## 1992

- Maine Coast Artists, "Breaking Tradition," Rockport, ME
- Icon Gallery, One Person Show, Brunswick, ME
- Galeria Mesa, "Chroma-Zone," Mesa, AZ

## 1991

- Icon Gallery, Two Person Show, Brunswick, ME
- The Harbor Square Gallery, Camden, ME
- Dawson Gallery, Christmas Show, Rochester, New York

## 1990

- University of Maine at Farmington, "Vocabularies in Woven Fiber"
- Museum of Art at Bates College, "Makers 90"
- Icon Gallery, Brunswick, ME, One Man Show

## 1989

- Galeria Mesa, "Patterns," Mesa, AZ

## 1988

- The Society of Arts and Crafts, "Arteast," Boston, MA
- Galeria Mesa, "Vakhi," Mesa, AZ

## 1987

- Viewpoints Gallery, "Interiors," Wiscasset, ME
- Winston and Company Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

## 1986

- Bowdoin College Museum, "Makers '86," Biennial Crafts Exhibition

## 1985

- American Craft Museum, "For the Floor" exhibition, New York City

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- Newport Art Museum, "New England Fiber Arts," Newport, Rhode Island
- Center for the Arts, "IN OUR OPINION," Bath, ME
- American Craft Museum Associates, "Selection '85," New York City

## 1984

- Maine Coast Artists, One Person Show, Rockport, ME
- "Perspectives" Gallery, Two Person Show, Camden, ME
- Portland School of Art, "Maker's '84", Biennial Exhibition of Crafts
- Maine Weaver's Guild, "Challenge" Show, Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, ME
- Dawson Gallery, Rochester, New York
- June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME

## 1983

- University of Maine at Augusta, One Person Show
- Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- Maine Coast Artists, Fabrications' Show, Rockport, ME
- June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Portland, ME

## 1982

- University of New Hampshire, "Crafts by New England Artists"

## 1981

- Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- The Manning's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Handweaver's Show, Berlin, PA

## 1980

- Maine Weaver's Guild, "Challenge" Show, Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, ME
- Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME

## **AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS:**

- 2019 - The Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts – Juror's Award, Juror's Choice Award
- 2016-17 - CMCA Maine Biennial juried show
- 2016 - Maine Arts Commission: Individual Artist Fellowship for Craft
- 2014 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2013 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2011 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2010 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2009 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2008 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2007 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 2006 - "Art: On and Off the Wall," Maine Artists in the American Art Collector Juried Competition of New Work, 2005/2006, River Tree Center for the Arts, Kennebunk, ME
- 2004 - American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work
- 1998 - Art in Embassies Program

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# CALDBECK GALLERY

- 1997 - Maine Arts Commission: Individual Artist Fellowship
- 1997 - Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- 1995 - Galeria Mesa, "Vakhi" Exhibition, Mesa, AZ – Award of Merit
- 1995 - Maine Coast Artists 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Crafts Fair, Rockport, ME
- 1983 - Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- 1981 - Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME
- 1980 - Maine Weaver's Guild, "Challenge" Show, "Best Use of Color" Award
- 1980 - Maine Coast Artists, Annual Juried Competition, Rockport, ME

## COLLECTIONS

Charles and Sylvia Asbury (2)  
David Andrews  
Emily and Dirck Born  
Joseph and Susan Brewer  
Lanya Butler  
Steve and Rose Lee Butler (2)  
Jonathon and Jane Claney  
Len and Arlene D'Angelica (2)  
Arnold and Carolyn Doren (inherited by Christopher Cornish)  
Neil and Donna Doren  
Francis and Marilyn Ellis (Mrs. Ralph Saltus)  
Peter Farago  
June Fitzpatrick Gallery (3 to anonymous collector)  
Kathie Florsheim  
Nancy Freeman (Round Top Center for the Arts, Damariscotta, ME)  
Carl and Tracy Glass  
Mrs. Merrill Halpern  
Bob and Nancy Hamilton (2) (inherited by daughter Vicki)  
Ann Gould Hauberg  
Isabelle Jakubeck  
Bob and Lisa Keating  
Liz Kendrick  
Ross and Julie Levitt  
Tom Lloyde and Wick Taylor (2)  
Warren and Joan Maxfield (3)  
Wende and John McIlwain  
Mr. and Mrs. David McKenna via Nina Mullally (art consultant)  
Dr. and Mrs. Murray Mitchell  
Don and Susie Moore

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Duane Paluska and Ellen Goldman  
George Pearlman  
Jerome Reich  
Daniel Roardon  
Gerald Rosenberg  
Dennis and Sally Ross (2)  
Sol and Florence Ross (inherited by Dennis Ross)  
Charles and Shirley Seib  
Ernest and Judith Simon (2)  
Ira and Gene Simon (gift from Jene Epstein)  
Ruth Simon  
Michael and Linda Simon  
Joseph Soley (The Seaman's Restaurant, Portland, ME)  
Edward Solomon  
Bob Steinmetz and Pat Ashton  
Mike and Jane Sullivan  
Ellen Reid Thurman  
Paul Theroux  
Herman Weinberg  
Alyssa White (2)  
Kay White (2)

## **PRESS and PUBLICATIONS**

- 2020 - "41<sup>st</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts Spring 2020 Catalog: Color Is King: The Hunter Orange Series: Morris David Dorenfeld," *Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum*
- 2019 - "Color Is King: The Hunter Orange Series," *Mesa Contemporary Art Museum* brochure
- "40<sup>th</sup> Annual Contemporary Crafts Spring 2019 Catalog," *Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum*
- 2017 - Katharine Cartwright, "An Art Form Where 'Color Is King'," *The St. George Dragon*, May 25, 2017
- "Craft Gallery's Final Show of the Season Features Morris Dorenfeld," *Free Press*, September 26, 2017
- 2016 - Daniel Kany, "2016 Biennial at CMCA Is Messy Good Fun," *Maine Sunday*

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*Telegram*, November 13, 2016

- "Biennial Artists Show Extended at CRAFT," *The Courier Gazette: Arts and Entertainment*, November 13, 2016
- "CMCA 2016 Biennial, on Winter Street" *The Courier Gazette: Arts and Entertainment*, November 1, 2016
- "Seven of Maine's Best Artists," *CreateME: The Official Newsletter of the Maine Arts Commission*, Julie A. Richard, Ex Dir, Winter, 2016
- American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer & Michelle Kellman, ed, Alcove Books
- Luiza deCamargo, Assistant Curator, "Our Cups Runneth Over, Featuring Weavings by Morris David Dorenfeld," Society of Arts and Crafts, November, 2016

2015 - *Maine Arts Commission: Visual Arts*, Julie Horn, Visual Arts Director

- "Dorenfeld Is 2016 Craft Fellow" *The Courier Gazette: Arts and Entertainment*, December 17, 2015

2014 - American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer & Aileen Kim, ed, Alcove Books

2013 - American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer, ed, Alcove Books; Berkeley, CA

2012 - Susan L Stroud, *The Loom: The Weaver, Morris David Dorenfeld*, Apple booklet

- *The Inspired Hand V*, Maine Crafts Association members Exhibition brochure

2011 - American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer, ed, Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2010 - American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer & Aileen Kim, ed, Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2009 - "Fiber: Applying an Artist's Eye to Woven tapestries," *New England Crafts Connoisseur*, Vol 13, Issue 1 (Fall 2009)

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- American Art Collector: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer, ed,  
Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2008 – Philip Isaacson, “Dorenfeld Weaves an Irresistible Spell,” *Maine Sunday Telegram: Audience*, June 8, 2008 (“The Magical Weavings of Morris Dorenfeld”)

– “Weavings, Pastels at Caldbeck,” *The Courier-Gazette: The Beat, Arts and Entertainment*, Thursday, May 22, 2008

- American Art Collector, Vol 4, Book 2: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer & Aileen Kim, ed, Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2007 - American Art Collector, Vol 3, Book 4: Juried Competition of New Work, Tom Palmer, ed, Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2006 - American Art Collector, Vol 2, Book 3: Northeast States, Tom Palmer, ed,  
Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

2004 - American Art Collector, Vol 1, Book 3: Northern States, Tom Palmer, ed,  
Alcove Books, Berkeley, CA

1999 – *Maine Light: The Ambassador’s Residence, United States Embassy, Santiago, Chile*,  
Art in Embassies Program, Department of State, United States of America

- *Fabric and Fiber '99*, Christine Macchi, Project Director, Portland Museum of  
Art, Maine Fabric and Fiber Arts Festival, Franklin Printing, Farmington, ME

1997 – David Grima, “Local Artists Honored by State Arts Commission,” *The Courier Gazette*, Thursday, December 4, 1997

1996 - “An Artful Touch: A tapestry of bloom in Maine mirrors the aesthetic visions  
of a weaver and an artist,” Lynn Karlin photography, Nancy Beaubaire, ed,  
*Country Living Gardener*, July 1996

1993 - “Folio: Morris David Dorenfeld,” *American Craft Magazine*, June/July, 1993

1993 - Susan Rayfield, “The Art of Crafts,” *Maine Sunday Telegram: Arts*, 1993

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1992 - Bill Robertson, "'Over the Rainbow': Dorenfeld's Tapestries Feature a Strong Sense of Color," *The Times Record*, Brunswick, Maine, September 24, 1992

- "Spruce Head Tapestry Maker to Show Works in Brunswick," *Courier-Gazette*, September 3, 1992

1983 - Philip Isaacson, "Eight Rugs with Pizazz," *Maine Sunday Telegram: Arts/Books*, February 6, 1983

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