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## TENDRILS, A DELICATE TWIST

*October 2013 at the Ohio Art League Gallery*

**September 26, 2013 – COLUMBUS, OHIO** – Craft becomes fine art in the hands of Nicki Strouss, Esther Hall and Megan A. Coyan in OAL's October member curated exhibit. Each woman, working in her own tradition of paper, embroidery or textile design creates fiber art that stretches beyond the boundaries of surface design and utility.

"Material and technique, though not ignored, are eclipsed by message, story, and meaning," said curator Catherine Bell Smith. "This common thread is the foundation for *Tendrils, a Delicate Twist*."

The appliqué and woven pieces rich with life's designs crafted by Coyan alongside the storytelling embroidery work of Hall play an intricate counterpoint to Strouss' evocative ceramic, felt, and paper vessels.

*Tendrils, A Delicate Twist* will be on display in the OAL Gallery in South Campus Gateway, 1552 N. High St. Columbus, OH 43201. The opening reception is 6:00–8:00p.m. Thursday, October 3. The show runs through October 31 during normal gallery hours: Monday through Wednesday 12:00–6:00 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 12:00–8:00 p.m.

### **About the Artists**

**Esther Hall** is an Ohio Native, currently residing in Grandview Heights. She works as the gallery manager and organizational administrator for the Ohio Art League. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in a combined, fashion and sculpture focus. Hall currently instructs continuing education classes at Columbus College of Art and Design and organizes Craft Alley for Independents Day, Park Street Festival and Food Truck Cart Festival. Esther is a crafter, fiber artist, and fashion designer. She has won international awards for her fashion design including accolades from Styles Scotland international fashion competition and the Marshall Fields Emmanuel Ungaro Scholarship. Hall was a contestant on TLC's Craft Wars and has been published numerous times for her work in both fashion and craft in local and national publications, in published books, and has had her designs featured in several music videos. Recently Hall participated as one of ten designers in the Alternative Fashion Mob finale fashion show in Columbus, displaying her most recent collection based on hard edges versus soft drapes.

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**Megan A. Coyan** is a native of Central Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in textile design from Parsons the New School of Design in 1993. In addition to her hand-woven fabrics and artwork, she designs fabrics for home interiors. She currently lives and works in Columbus, Ohio.

**Nicki Strouss** enjoys creating both functional and sculptural work. Her vessels reference figures and possibility. Mediums used include high fire clay, wool, paper, wax, and any number of other household implements to create a rich surface that is best experienced when held in hand. Nicki grew up on a horse farm in Lexington, KY and is now home in Columbus after graduating from Columbus College of Art and Design, and earning her 200 RYT from Grow Yoga. She continues to work with local artists and various other learning institutions and teaches ceramics and yoga. Other interests and inspiration are from slow food, the outdoors, traveling, and sharing knowledge.

#### **About OAL**

Ohio Art League is a membership-based non-profit visual arts organization. OAL provides exhibition and professional development opportunities to artists and enriches the community through art. Opportunities to curate and show art in OAL's member curated exhibitions are open exclusively to members. The OAL Gallery features a new member curated exhibition each month January through November. To learn more or become a member, please visit [OAL.org](http://OAL.org).

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