

Desert Fiber Arts Partners

with

Maryhill Museum & Artist Ophir El-Boher

Desert Fiber Arts has accepted Maryhill Museum's invitation to participate in the Exquisite Gorge 2 Project (EG2)! The press release for EG2 will be hitting the streets soon!

To get an idea of what this project entails, please check out Maryhill Museum's Exquisite Gorge 1 (EG1) project on their website: <https://www.maryhillmuseum.org/exquisite-gorge-project-2019>. Maryhill Museum has created exciting projects pairing community partners and professional artists from around the world. Two-hundred miles of the Columbia River was divided into 10 river sections that are depicted in a ginormous 66-foot-long mural done with wood block prints. Each 4 X 6-foot section was laid side by side and printed with an asphalt paving drum roller.

EG2 steps up the game by creating a 3-dimensional sculpture made with fiber arts! Each community partner & professional artist team are assigned a river section to be depicted in a 3-D fiber arts sculpture. The size of each sculpture section? 6 feet (long) by 4 feet (wide) by 5 feet (tall)! When put together, the finished sculpture will be SIXTY-SIX feet long including the Head Piece. DFA's professional artist, Ophir El-Boher is a fashion designer who works with upcycled materials! <https://dismantlemag.com/2020/05/11/upcycled-fashion-ophir-el-boher-designer-artist-scholar/> She is a perfect fit for River Section #8, the John Day River to Roosevelt, WA. Western Washington sends its garbage to the Roosevelt landfills area by train, while western Oregon sends its garbage to the Arlington landfills by 18 wheelers. Her goal is to make our sculpture from all recycled/upcycled/stash-cycled fibers!

EG2 began for DFA in June, with Ophir's first visit. Ophir will be presenting her concept for her design at our August General meeting. Workshops will be held September 8-10 to work out logistics & experiment with fiber & techniques. The project continues with production of fiber-based parts, through May 2022. The assembling of the parts into the final construction of our sculpture will take place in June 2022, local exhibits in July 2022 & the culminating event at the Maryhill Museum August 6, 2022. All eleven sculptures will be coming together to be displayed at Maryhill for the month of August!

Ophir & the DFA Maryhill team rendezvoused in The Dallas, OR in early June for a visit to River Section #8. So much to see in our section! The next day Ophir met with DFA members at our Guild House to check out the resources available and to explore the beautiful products created by the Fiber Artists of Desert Fiber Arts, exemplifying championship in reclaiming textile waste!



Pictured from left to right: Ophir El-Boher, Pam Root, Karyn Watson, Cheryl Reed & Mary Fraizer.