

For immediate release

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## **Summer Events at the REACH Offer Collaborative Art and a Chance to Learn Fiber Crafts**

The REACH Museum's Gallery One will host the sculpture "Bendichas Manos" by fiber artist Ophir El-Boher from late June through July. Coinciding with the artwork's opening weekend, the Desert Fiber Arts Guild will offer demonstrations and teach basic fiber arts techniques at two special events: **Saturday June 25 10:00 am to noon, and Sunday June 26 noon to 2:00 pm**. Visitors of all ages may explore basic weaving, finger knitting, and basketry. Guild members will also demonstrate spinning wheels, rigid heddle and floor looms. This education activity is free with regular museum admission. Check [www.visitthereach.us](http://www.visitthereach.us) for information on admissions and open hours.

Desert Fiber Arts Guild worked with artist Ophir El-Boher to create the artwork on display at the REACH, a representation of the reach of the Columbia River from the John Day River confluence to Roosevelt, Washington. The piece will be joined with eleven other artworks at the Maryhill Museum of Art later this summer to create the Exquisite Gorge II Project. Each section of the Columbia River from the Willamette confluence in Portland to the Snake confluence near the Tri-Cities is interpreted by a different artist paired with a community group. El-Boher's piece, like much of her artwork, uses recycled materials to create something new out of used items. The title means Blessed Hands in the ancient language Ladino, which has been passed through the generations of the artist's family. The collaborative nature of both this piece and the full Exquisite Gorge Project reflects our community's collaborative efforts to care for the river's many resources that we all rely upon.

The artwork will be on display at the REACH Museum June 25 through July 31, after which it moves to the Maryhill Museum near Goldendale, Washington. The full Exquisite Gorge II artwork will be revealed at a special Maryhill event on Saturday, August 6 and displayed throughout the month. Find more information about the project at <https://www.maryhillmuseum.org/exquisite-gorge-project-2022>.

Desert Fiber Arts is an educational non-profit that teaches and promotes fiber arts in the Tri-Cities community. They offer classes, reference materials, and work space for artists to learn about the crafts of spinning, weaving, knitting, basketry, felting, and more. Learn more about Desert Fiber Arts at <https://www.desertfiberarts.org/about-us/>.