

Artist Statement... Jo-Marie Like Karst

Handweaving takes me to a place of refuge. I believe there are many reasons for this effect. I spent the first twenty years of my life in the flattest part of the mid-western United States; Indiana, where all roads run east/west or north/south. The fields are plowed in furrows that run parallel to the road. Warp and weft mimic the horizontal and perpendicular lines created in a rural landscape whose dominant features are utility lines, fence posts and cattle wire. It is not a surprise that I'm at home on the loom.

I am always moved by the complexity I find in the lives of "ordinary" people. In my artwork I seek to develop a uniqueness that can be found in the common and "ordinary" weave structure of plain weave. By applying outside pressures to the woven cloth patterns emerge and the flat landscape of plain weave is transformed. Some of my designs are purely geometric shapes while others are inspired by the unique personal qualities of a person who has touched my life in a meaningful way. These later shapes and symbols are more metaphoric.

My weavings are not meant to make social or political statements. Instead, they are merely the language from internal places that flows from within and finds voice through the cloth.