



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

*Textile Society of America*

# ABOUT TSA

Founded in 1987, the Textile Society of America is a United States 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides an international forum for the exchange and dissemination of textile knowledge from artistic, cultural, economic, historic, political, social, scientific, and technical perspectives. Our 1,000 members worldwide include curators and conservators, scholars and educators, artists, designers, makers, conservators, scientists, collectors, and others interested in fiber and textiles. TSA is governed by an international Board of Directors.


## MISSION AND VISION

Building a foundation of anti-racism and a culture of care, the mission of the Textile Society of America is to foster an international collective community—diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible—for the exchange and dissemination of knowledges and experiences about textiles worldwide.

The Textile Society of America is an international organization committed to reflecting the global diversity of textiles and their makers. We strive to build inclusive leadership, programming, and membership that embrace a wide range of histories, identities, and perspectives. To ensure our future relevance and impact, we welcome those historically underrepresented in the cultural sector and textile discourse. We aim to create a truly inclusive environment across our events, publications, and partnerships and to promote dialogue in multiple languages and worldviews.

Image: Nastassja Swift, “Passage, when momma lets my braids flow down my back,” 2021. Collaborators are Kiki Jewell, Nyja Amos, Grace Jewell. Photo by David Hunter-Hale. Courtesy of the artist.





# 2024 END OF YEAR LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we wrap up an exciting and transformative year for TSA, we want to share with you the incredible strides we've made and the inspiring initiatives that will shape the future of our organization.

This year, TSA has worked tirelessly to expand its reach and evolve into a broader, more inclusive organization that represents a growing range of specialties within textiles, drawing on perspectives from across the globe and throughout history. Central to our work are the values of anti-racism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, which we continue to prioritize in every aspect of our programming and operations. These values were on full display during our 2024 symposium, [Shifts and Strands: Rethinking the Possibilities and Potentials of Textiles](#), where we were proud to offer keynote sessions from global leaders such as Christine Checinska, Anna Arabindan-Kesson, Wafa Ghnaim, Vandana Bhandari, Nastassja Swift, Ai Kijima, and many others. The Symposium offered an inclusive platform for diverse voices and artists, creating a space for thought-provoking dialogue and international connection.

We also took significant steps to ensure our symposium was as accessible and inclusive as possible. In partnership with [Constellation Collective](#), we created a robust accessibility statement, and we scheduled sessions across international time zones to reflect TSA's global reach. We are proud to have provided a record number of awards and scholarships

Image: Cecilia Vicuña, "Quipu Austral", 2021. Courtesy of the artist.



# 2024 END OF YEAR LETTER CONTINUED

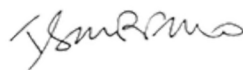
for symposium attendance, making participation possible for many in our community who might otherwise have been excluded.

This year also marks a pivotal moment in TSA's organizational development. Our collaboration with the Arts Consulting Group has led to the hiring of a new Executive Director, bringing fresh leadership and a renewed vision for TSA's future. The Executive Director will be announced in the new year, and we are confident that this new direction will strengthen our governance, development, and fundraising efforts. We look forward to the continued growth and revitalization of our organization.

As we reflect on a year of progress and transformation, we are reminded of the importance of community and the need for continued investment in our work. We are entering a new era, one filled with opportunity, but also with challenges. The work ahead is significant, and we need your support more than ever to sustain TSA's financial health and ensure we continue to provide a platform for diverse voices in our textile community.

Thank you for being a part of TSA's success this year. We look forward to what we can achieve together in 2025.

Warm regards on behalf of the Board of Directors,



Isaac Facio  
President



Sharbreon Plummer  
Co-Vice President



L Vinebaum  
Co-Vice President

# TSA MEMBERSHIP

TSA's worldwide membership include museum curators, teachers, historians, artists, students, dealers, and collectors.

## MEMBERS AT A GLANCE

305 new members joined in 2024

Our international membership is made up of a broad range of emerging to established learners, practitioners, and professionals.

November 11, 2020 Membership: 771  
November 11, 2024 Membership: 933

Approximately 40% of our members joined at the \$15 level\*

\*As of December 2020, TSA offers a sliding scale membership fee. By reducing barriers to entry, we seek to expand our membership and make participation accessible to a larger audience. We recognize that it is in the union of disparate disciplines and voices where we find possibilities.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eva Labson  
Gabe Duggan  
Dr. Christine Checinska  
Caroline Kipp  
Dr. Alexa Winton



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening Connection Through Textile Programs

**2024 SYMPOSIUM:  
SHIFTS AND STRANDS: RETHINKING THE  
POSSIBILITIES AND POTENTIALS OF TEXTILES**

**388 attendees | 214 presenters | 64 sessions**

Held online from November 12-17, 2024, the international generated 1420 hours of viewing time. The event also sparked a vibrant exchange on the community board, with 1230 messages posted and 618 related articles shared by participants, demonstrating a rich network of resources and knowledge sharing.

The symposium successfully attracted and implemented its call for presenters, as evidenced by a 65% increase in acceptance rate and robust participation of 214 presenters and 100 volunteers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

A record number of 65 scholarships were awarded in 2024. Individual papers made up a significant portion of the symposium, with 33 of the 64 programs being individual papers. One-third of the programming would have been lost without subsidized support.



The theme “Shifts and Strands: Rethinking the Possibilities and Potentials of Textiles” invites us to reflect on the many exciting shifts in textiles as historical and contemporary, cultural, creative, scholarly, political, discursive, and scientific practices.

“Shifts” suggests transition, movement, evolution, mutability, instability, uncertainty, experimentation, and being in-progress or in-process. “Shifts” also reaffirms an ongoing process of transformation and change within TSA.

“Strands” is a textile metaphor that implies intertwining, connectedness, plurality, and multiple parts coming together to form a larger whole. “Strands” is a metaphor for collaboration, joining, and community. The Symposium theme is deliberately open, fluid, and inviting. It invites us to reflect upon the past and to envision and create collective, equitable, sustainable, and emancipatory futures.

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Celebrating Excellence in the Textile Field

## 2023-2024 FELLOWS

Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi | Kay Sekimachi



## 2024 BRANDFORD/ELLIOTT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FIBER ART

Nastassja Swift



## 2024 FOUNDING PRESIDENTS AWARD

Jennifer Byram | Eveline Steele

“Plying Together Knowledges:  
Revitalization of Indigenous Textile  
Knowledge through Language”

## 2023 R. L. SHEP MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD

Dr. Nazanin Hedayat Munroe

“Sufi Lovers, Safavid Silks and Early  
Modern Identity (Visual and Material  
Culture, 1300-1700)”

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Vandana Bhandari

Dr. Janet Purdy

## 2024 STUDENT/NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Almas Ali

Tim Abel

Hannah Brancato

Jennifer Byram

John Fifield-Perez

Sannah Jabeen

Suzanna James

Smrti Ganesan

Maria Ida De Ioanni

Céline Khawam

Markia Liapi

Sarah Molina

Isabel Monseau

Elizabeth Okeyele-Olatunji

Brielle Pizzala

Sam Simons

Emilela Thomas-Adams

Matthew Raj Webb

Emma Wingfield

Yan Yan

# EQUITY & ACCESS

Weaving a Culture of Care

## TSA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

TSA's Accessibility Statement was created in consultation with [The Constellation Collective](#). TSA is committed to ensuring our programming is as accessible and inclusive as possible, in line with our commitment to anti-racism and building a culture of care. TSA's programming may be held on a third-party platforms like Zoom or Whova. Although we do not have control over the Zoom or Whova platforms themselves, we are working to implement our content and sessions in the most accessible way possible.

Specific steps we are taking include:

Providing live captions for TSA events like Keynote presentations, member meetings, and listening sessions

- Providing presenters with training and guidelines for creating accessible presentations; requiring participants to consent to follow these accessibility guidelines
- Creating alternative text for posters and other visual material created by TSA to promote the Symposium
- Asking for accommodations as part of the registration form so we may address specific needs directly
- Ensure all papers published and presentations are as accessible as possible

## ABOUT CONSTELLATION COLLECTIVE

The Constellation Collective is a woman-owned strategic communications consultancy based in Brooklyn, New York. Founded in 2018 by Megan Canning and Rachel Crawford, the firm specializes in crafting clear, compelling, and inclusive communications for nonprofits, women-led businesses, startups, and design agencies.

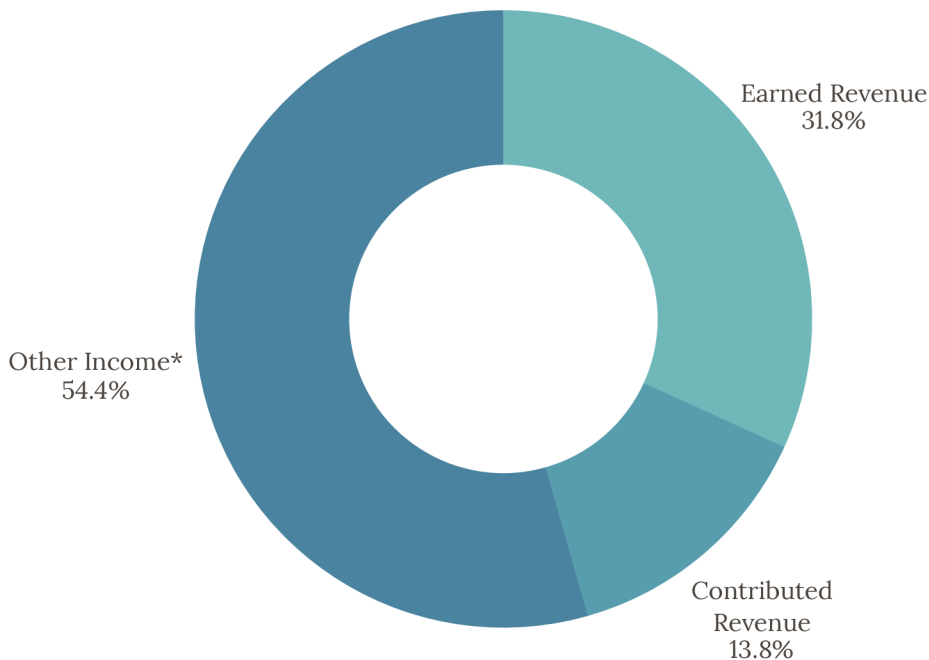


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Membership remains a vital source of support, enabling us to plan and grow with confidence.

## REVENUE PERCENTAGE BY SOURCE

In 2024, TSA generated a total income of \$131,450  
\*interest and dividends



## EXPENSES & INCOME

Total expenses for the year were \$183,182.

This transition year resulted in a modest planned deficit of \$51,732, reflecting strategic investments in leadership and organizational renewal that position TSA for future growth.



# 81%

earned revenue from membership dues  
a 28% increase over 2023

# DONORS, FUNDERS, & PARTNERS

Global Dialogue. Textile Knowledge. Shared Heritage.

## DONORS

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Vita Plume  
William Siegal

## FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Lenore G. Tawney Foundation  
Teitelbaum Fund  
Terra Foundation for American Art

**TERRA**  
FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART

University of Nebraska–Lincoln,  
Digital Commons  
Journal of Textile Design Research  
and Practice  
George Washington University  
Museum and The Textile Museum

## FEATURED ARTWORK

Cover image: Andrea Barrios  
Aquilar, “AWAKENING” (detail), 2018.  
Courtesy of the artist.

Back cover image: Cayce Zavaglia,  
“Emmylou” (detail), 2019.  
Courtesy of the artist.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Asst. Director of Communications, 2023-2024  
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# TEXTILE SOCIETY *of* AMERICA

Textile Society of America  
PO Box 177  
Millersville, MD 21108



TSA IS SUPPORTED, IN PART,  
BY PATRONS LIKE YOU.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY AND HELP US  
FULFILL OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO THE  
EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF TEXTILE KNOWLEDGE.

Visit [textilesocietyofamerica.org](http://textilesocietyofamerica.org) to learn more about the perks of becoming a member  
and to see previews of our current and upcoming programs.